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# THE TIMES



No. 65,266

SATURDAY MAY 13 1995

Lamont wants Thatcherite revival

## Major sets out on quest for a people's policy

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR last night appealed to the country to help him to build a "people's policy" to win the next election. Bowing to criticism that the Government has lost touch with its natural supporters, the Prime Minister announced that he and his Cabinet colleagues were to embark on a grand tour to consult Tory activists and the public about the next Conservative manifesto. He wanted to "bridge the gap between the doorsteps of Britain and the corridors of power".

Mr Major insisted that even after 16 years in power, the Government was still "fizzing with ideas" and he pointed to forthcoming announcements on housing, nursery schools and train fares.

But his attempt to fight back after the Tories' mauling in the council elections was clouded by a warning from Norman Lamont that the party was doomed unless it swung decisively to the right. Only by rediscovering the radicalism of the Thatcher era could it repulse Tony Blair's Labour onslaught.

Mr Lamont, tipped as the man most likely to challenge Mr Major's leadership in the autumn, set out his stall in a speech in Cheltenham a couple of hours after the Prime Minister sat down to the obligatory standing ovation at the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Glasgow.

Mr Lamont said that under present policies the Govern-

ment could hope to deliver no more than modest tax cuts. Big reductions would require bold policy changes.

"How can taxes be cut? The answer is clear: we can make substantial tax cuts by fundamentally changing what the State does. Cheese-paring will not be enough. Sharing the growth dividend will not be enough. If the State continues to do everything it does today, taxes will not fall significantly."

"We need to look again at the whole issue of what the State does: social security, provision for old age, health

Blair campaign...10  
Julian Critchley...18

and welfare services. We need to look at the scope for more private provision, which means more freedom of choice for the individual." Mr Lamont told the right-wing Freedom Association.

The former Chancellor continued: "The one way of ensuring a Labour victory is to have a contest between two social democratic parties. An election fought as a beauty contest could have only one outcome: age would lose to beauty."

If the Conservatives lost the election, it would be because they had lost faith in the philosophy that produced the "golden decade" of the 1980s.

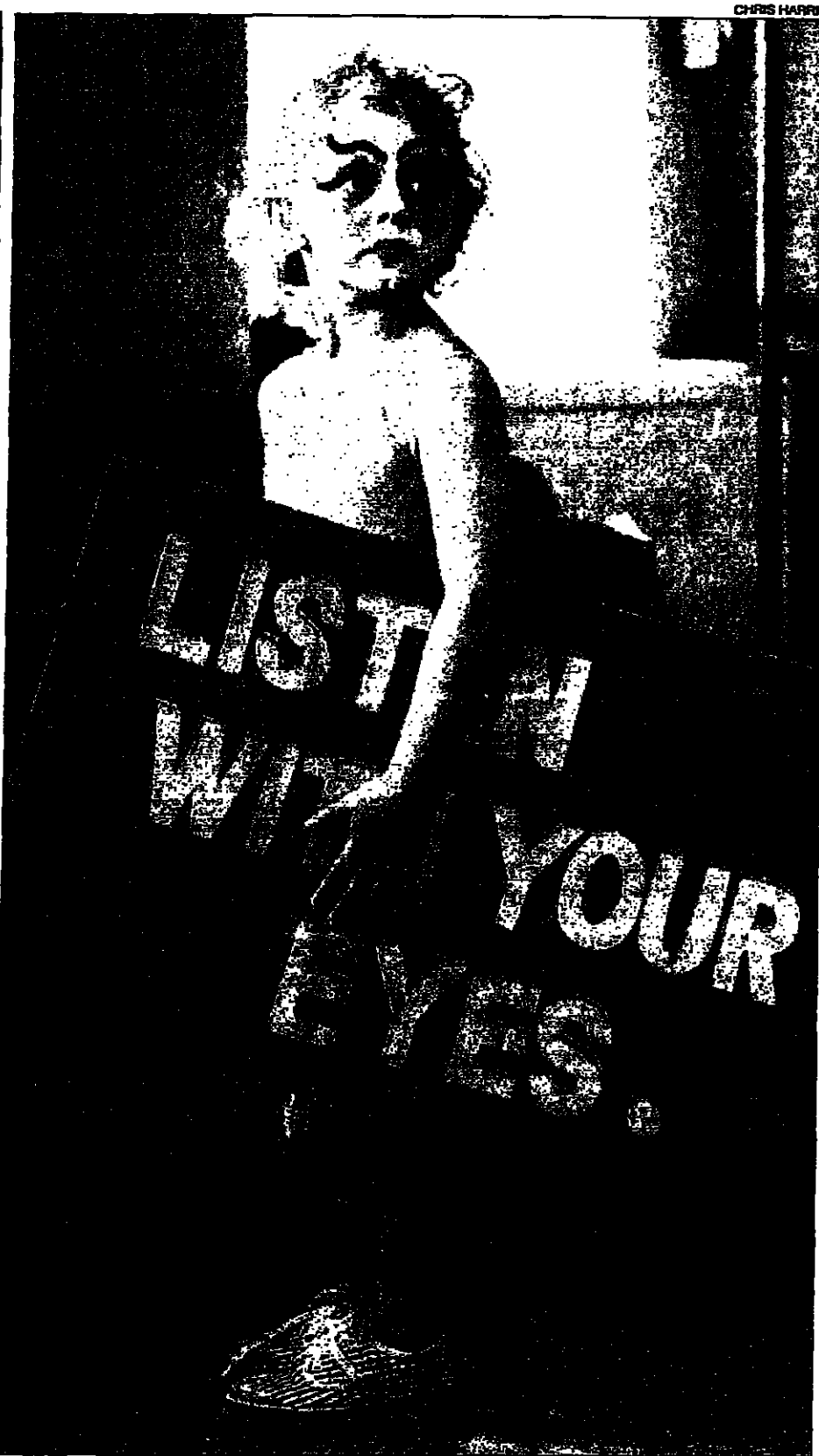
But in Glasgow, the Prime Minister urged his party to turn away from grumbling

and disillusionment as he announced his consultation exercise. "It is right for us now to discuss with you, the bedrock of our party, what you want to see in the next manifesto — a manifesto grown from our grassroots, as we build the next phase of Conservatism. I am going to go out and about. To meet you, to talk to you and to listen to you. To build a people's policy to bridge the gap between the doorsteps of Britain and the corridors of power."

Some thirty policy groups would be reporting to him next month. The next stage would be discussions throughout the party and the country around five themes: how to secure economic prosperity; how to expand opportunity and choice for all; how to promote law and order; how to deliver first class public services and how to build pride in the nation.

Special conferences would be held in England, Scotland and Wales and the "developing agenda" would begin to be unveiled at the central council meeting next spring.

Turning to the economy, Mr Major signalled that he was prepared to see interest rates go higher if necessary to clamp down on inflation "however loud the protests". But he added: "This is no ordinary recovery. What we may be seeing — provided we can carry it fully through — is the reawakening of Britain as a growing economic power."



Rachel Severn, 5, of Derby prepares to go on stage at the 25th performing arts festival organised by the National Deaf Children's Society in London yesterday

## Robber shoots have-a-go RAF man

By EMMA WILKINS

A SENIOR RAF officer was shot five times when he tried to disarm a gunman who had fired at a woman during a street robbery. Wing Commander Peter Drissell, 39, was recovering in hospital yesterday with bullets still lodged in his body after the attack in Vauxhall, southwest London.

Wing Commander Drissell, whose wife is an RAF squadron leader, was returning home from his office at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall when two men produced a handgun and demanded his wallet. A woman passer-by who witnessed the attack shouted at the men to stop. One robber fired in her direction, but missed.

Wing Commander Drissell, who refused to hand over his

A Scotland Yard marksman was accidentally shot and slightly hurt by a colleague during a police ambush yesterday. Page 3

wallet, tried to grab the gun and was himself shot in the hand, arm and stomach at pointblank range. The robbers snatched his briefcase and ran off in the direction of a housing estate, according to witnesses to the attack on Thursday evening.

The case did not contain sensitive defence documents, the ministry said.

Detective Inspector Martin Greenslade, who is leading the inquiry, praised Wing Commander Drissell's courage. "He grabbed what he knew was a real firearm. It was a hairline between him lying in a hospital bed and being on a mortuary slab."

The shooting happened at 9.20pm just after the wing commander had visited a Chinese takeaway restaurant



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page 7

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page 6

Continued on page 3, col 1

## Boost for Clarke as pound bounces back

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE strong performance of the pound and figures showing the first fall in manufacturing production since the recovery began both appeared yesterday to vindicate the Chancellor's decision to leave interest rates unchanged.

As Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, put up a strong defence on his behalf saying: "Anyone who says Kenneth Clarke should be sacked is frankly, barking", the pound gained five pence against the mark.

Such a large rise in one day was seen as spectacular by the City and, although it was helped by a weakening mark, its rise against a rallying dollar was an indication of sterling's strength. The last time sterling rose this much was on January 5, 1993, when

it bounced back from the lows reached after withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. The pound ended at 84.7 on its trade weighted index.

The rise of 2.5 per cent since the eve of Mr Clarke's meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, last Friday, where City analysts believe that Mr Clarke blocked a rise in interest rates against the Governor's advice for political reasons, suggests critics were premature to say that he had lost his credibility.

Mr Heseltine insisted on BBC Radio yesterday that Mr Clarke had shown "guts" in not being afraid to take tough decisions when necessary.

Heseltine support, page 2  
Letters, page 19  
Economy slowing, page 23

## First killer sub found

Underwater explorers have discovered an American Confederate hulk that 131 years ago was the first submarine to sink another ship. The submarine *Hunley* was found intact in 18 ft of water, two and a half miles off Charleston, South Carolina. In 1864 it sank the Union frigate *USS Housatonic* with gunpowder. Page 16

## Imran to marry Goldsmith girl

Imran Kahn, the former Pakistan cricket captain, is to marry Gemma Goldsmith, the 21-year-old daughter of the millionaire businessman Sir James Goldsmith. The ceremony will take place at the end of next month, a spokesman for Sir James and his wife said last night.

## Vicars asked to sign child abuse pledge

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CHURCH of England diocese is to ask its vicars and other clergy to sign a declaration stating that they have never abused children before they are accepted for training or new jobs. The Ely diocese is the first in the country to introduce the anti-child abuse declaration as part of its employment procedures.

Sunday school teachers, choir masters and other parish workers who deal with children and young people are already asked to sign the declaration, which asks for "disclosure of certain types of offence, particularly those against children."

Clergy will be asked to say if they have been convicted, placed on probation or discharged by a criminal court for offences relating to sex and

the physical abuse and neglect of children. Police, who can only release details of previous convictions under certain circumstances, have agreed to co-operate, charging £50 for each inquiry. The Church of England nationally is drawing up guidelines to prevent abuse.

The Ely diocese policy on child abuse, approved by the bishop's council this week and published yesterday, states: "The consequences of abuse during childhood can be devastating, even lifelong. It is essential that the church be... a place where all children are safe from harm."

The declaration was the idea of the Bishop of Ely, the Right Rev Stephen Sykes. "It's a way of giving the public an assurance that children in our care are safe," he said.

## Britons told not to travel to Zaire

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL health experts tried yesterday to calm growing panic in Zaire over the killer Ebola virus.

Initial death-toll figures were at the same time sharply reduced. Many of the 170 people reported to have died of the disease, which turns internal organs to liquid, are now believed to have had illnesses with similar symptoms. One of these is red diarrhoea, a form of dysentery.

The World Health Organisation said yesterday that the confirmed Ebola death toll was 48. The Foreign Office none the less "strongly advised" Britons not to travel to Zaire because of the disease.

Fears mount, page 17



SCRUM DOWN



BOTTOMS UP

MITCHELLS SEVING ROBOT MATCH, TWICKENHAM	15 May
GLIMMERING FESTIVAL OVERA	22 May-27 August
CHICKEN FLOWER SHOW	23-26 May
ITV CORNELL TONY MATCH, HEADINGLEY	8-12 June
THE DERRY, ERSKIN	10 June
ROYAL ASCOT	20-25 June
THE VINTAGE CLIQUE GOLF CUP POLO, GOSWARTH PALL	23 June-18 July
WIMBORNE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS	26 June-9 July
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA	28 June-2 July
124TH OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, ST. ANDREW'S	20-25 July

## Premiership doubles up with a phantom cup

By RUSSELL KEMPSON AND ALEXANDRA FREAN



The prize: the silver Premier League trophy

AFTER nine months of scandal, sleaze and sweat, the FA Carling Premiership — the crème de la crème of English football — reaches its climax tomorrow, with the outcome decided by two matches played 250 miles apart in Liverpool and London.

Tim Sherwood, the Blackburn Rovers captain, or Steve Bruce, the Manchester United captain, will lift the Premiership trophy at approximately 5.45pm. Or will they? Unable to predict who the Premiership champions will be, and where the

coveted cup should be held, the League has made a replica of the trophy. The League had considered using a helicopter to transfer the real trophy to the right ground but decided that this time the distance was too great.

Yesterday, nobody would confirm the existence of a second trophy. A Premier League spokesman said: "We cannot comment on the arrangements. All we can say is that there will be a presentation, whichever team wins the trophy."

It is understood that the real cup will be taken to Anfield, Liverpool, with the League officials feeling that Blackburn

are the favourites to become champions, while the identical fake will be taken to West Ham's ground at Upton Park — just in case United overcome the odds to triumph.

In an unprecedented operation, BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, will show the matches simultaneously on both its sports channels. Viewers of Blackburn's game will be shown key moments from the United match in a small box in the top left-hand corner of the screen.

All to play for, page 44



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Shootings in London

# Body armour saves policeman hit by accident in ambush

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A SCOTLAND YARD marksman was accidentally shot in the chest by a fellow officer during a police ambush yesterday. Saved by body armour, he escaped with bruises.

The shooting happened in Stamford Hill, north London as police opened fire on a robber trying to chop off a security guard's arm with an axe, to take a cash box chained to his wrist. The robber was uninjured but hit the guard in the neck before surrendering.

The wounded officer was wearing lightweight "cover" armour which could be on offer to the force under plans by Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, to make armour available to all officers because of the increase in attacks.

Armed police opened fire

when a Securitor guard was attacked by the axe-wielding robber after he had made a delivery to a branch of the Midland Bank. Officers had set an ambush for the assailant, who made his move when the guard came out of the bank carrying an empty cash box. Flying Squad officers acting on a tip-off were lying in wait with armed response officers, a spokesman said.

"A suspect came out of an alleyway wielding an axe, he struck the guard with the axe, believed to be three times, causing slash injuries. The armed officers challenged the suspect and shots were fired."

A local businessman, Charlie Josephs, told of the police preparations. "There were police in my brother's office. There are four banks on the

crossroads and no one seemed to know which bank was going to be hit.

"Paramedics were parked round the corner. There were police all over the place," he said.

One bullet was fired into the window frame of a travel agency. The manageress, Tina Ashton, 21, said: "We ran to the window."

"There seemed to be police everywhere. I heard them say 'Armed police - do not move'. There was a policeman in plain clothes who had been shot."

She added: "A white man carrying an axe was lying in the road. He was quickly surrounded by police who were aiming guns at him. They took the axe and handcuffed him," she added.

The incident comes just two days after the announcement that body armour is to be issued to all Metropolitan Police officers.

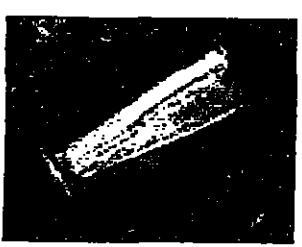
## RAF officer shot

Continued from page 1

on his way home from work. Colleagues at the ministry who visited him at St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth, said yesterday that his identity card had been taken. "He told us the only thing stolen was his MoD identity pass, which has a photograph of him and could not be used by anyone else," an official said.

Wing Commander Drissell works for the ministry's military planning department. He is responsible for Britain's air commitments over the next ten years. He is a member of the RAF Regiment, whose duties include the guarding of airfields against terrorists.

Two bullets broke his arm and a finger and the others hit him in the stomach. His wife Pauline was at his side yesterday. The couple have no children. The police said they were seeking two black youths in their late teens. One was wearing a red baseball cap



A cartridge from the scene

and red jacket. The other was wearing a beige jacket. The gunman was wearing a gold chain.

A nine-year-old schoolboy, who witnessed the shooting, said: "I saw these two men arguing with a businessman. He would not hand over his wallet. They started shouting and swearing at him and pulled out a gun and shot him about six times before running off."

"He fell to the floor and they stood there shooting him in the stomach and then ran off past my window."

## Former lawyer swindled actress out of £82,000

By A Staff Reporter

THE veteran actress Moira Lister was swindled out of £82,000 by a former solicitor who lavished most of it on his daughter's wedding.

John Hillman spent £11,000 hiring the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for the reception, and spent most of the rest on a world honeymoon cruise for his daughter and son-in-law.

At Southwark Crown Court yesterday Hillman, 64, of Lymington, Hampshire, admitted obtaining property by deception. He was given a two-year jail sentence, suspended for two years.

She thought that she was supporting a legitimate business venture to buy and refurbish a Scunthorpe snooker hall. But Hillman transferred the money into his own account. When Miss Lister became suspicious and asked for her money back, she was given a handful of post-dated cheques that later bounced.

Hillman, a former West



Lister: deceived

was exceptional in that the offence had occurred more than nine years ago. Hillman's health was very poor and Miss Lister had waited for more than six years before complaining to the police.

In those circumstances "the proper and just" course was to suspend the jail term. Because Hillman was a bankrupt, there was no point in making a compensation order, the judge said.

Outside court Miss Lister, television star of *The Very Merry Widow* and *Life Begins at 40*, said that she was disappointed with the sentence. "I would have liked to have seen him put away, although I am delighted that this nightmare is now over."

She said that she had no hope of getting back any of the £82,000. She had not reported the fraud earlier solicitors had advised her to seek civil redress, but she had to call off a High Court action when her money ran out.



Halero and Julie Johnston at St Thomas's Hospital, south London, yesterday

## Stabbed actor's life saved by passers-by

By Marianne Darch

THE wife of a West End actor stabbed in the heart by muggers has appealed to the passers-by who helped to save his life to come forward.

Julie Johnston, 41, said yesterday: "The people doing this kind of crime need to be stopped. I hope people will come forward with information to help to stamp it out."

Halero Johnston, 44, who plays the landlord in the musical *Oliver*, was assaulted on Monday night after a performance at the Palladium as he fetched his car from south London.

He was stabbed in the chest by one of two black men in Elephant and Castle. They fled with his bag containing credit cards and a little cash.

He said: "I was aware mostly of being punched in the face and then being down on the ground. I said, 'For God's sake, just take it, take everything', and then I realised I was bleeding."

Mr Johnston, of Crayford, Kent, underwent three hours of open-heart surgery at St Thomas's Hospital. A single stab wound had punctured his heart and lung. He was critical for 48 hours.

Two German students and a woman with a buggy were at the scene. One student stashed Mr Johnston's blood and the other called the emergency services. Another witness, who is helping inquiries, blocked the open chest wound with his thumb.

## Girl could only grunt after years in room

By A Staff Reporter

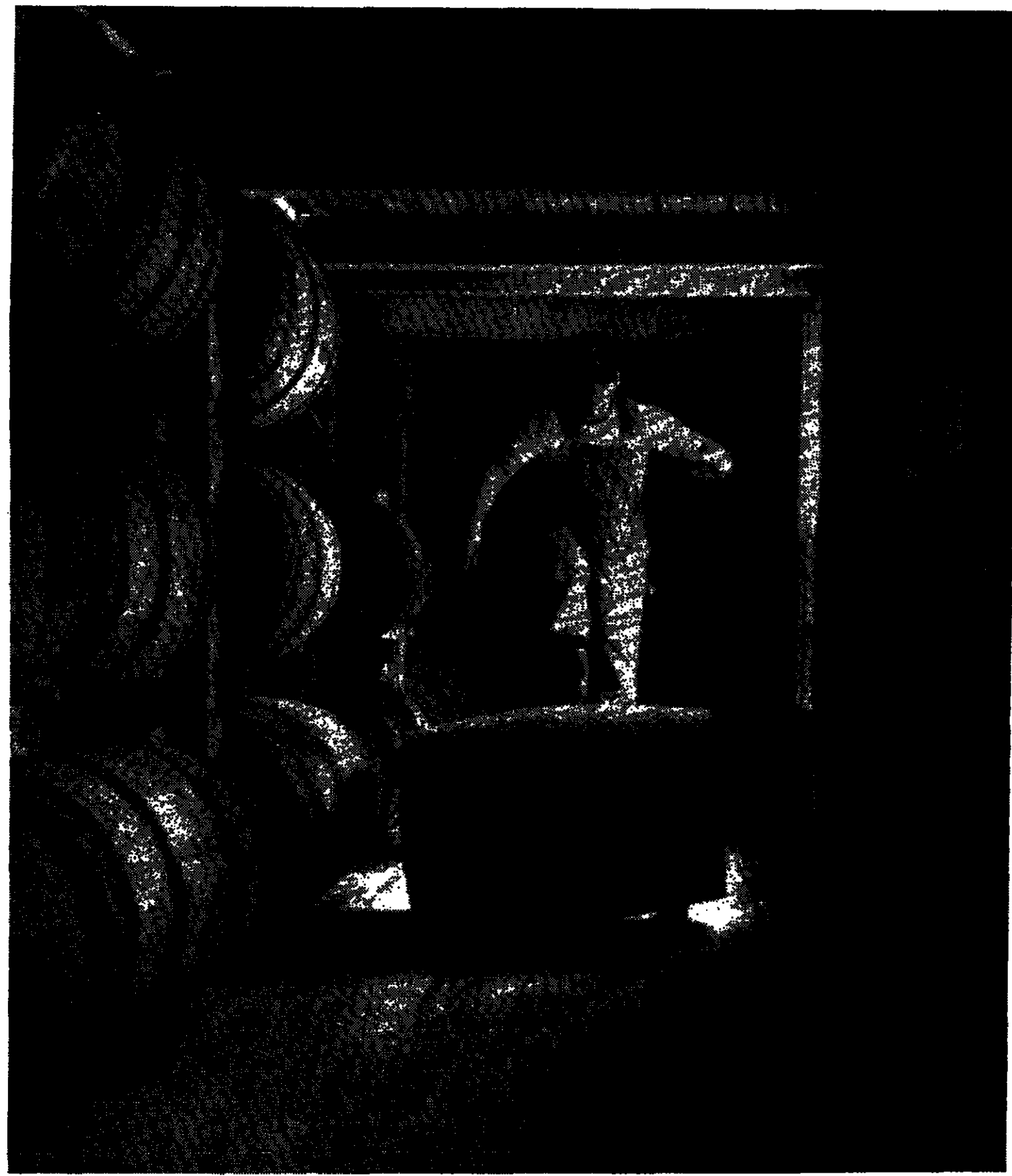
A CHILD was left alone in her bedroom without light for as much as 22 hours a day for up to two years, a court was told yesterday. Neighbours did not know the girl existed and her plight was not discovered until her first day at school. Teachers alerted social workers when they saw that the emaciated girl could hardly walk and communicated through grunts and squeals.

Ian Thomas, for the prosecution, told Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court the five-year-old girl lived with her mother and partner and the neglect began after the couple had a son in April 1992.

Judge Donald Hamilton, who ordered that the girl's identity be protected, said: "The doctors who examined the child found that she had a mental age of 18 months to two years. She didn't smile or laugh, but ate ravenously when fed and was dwarfed by her brother, who was two years younger."

When officers went to the house they found that the girl's bedroom was cold and smelt of urine. There was nothing in the room apart from a sheet that was pinned over the window and a blanket over the cot.

The man, 24, and the woman, 27, admitted cruelty to a child and were jailed for two years each. The girl is showing signs of recovery and will enter mainstream schooling soon.



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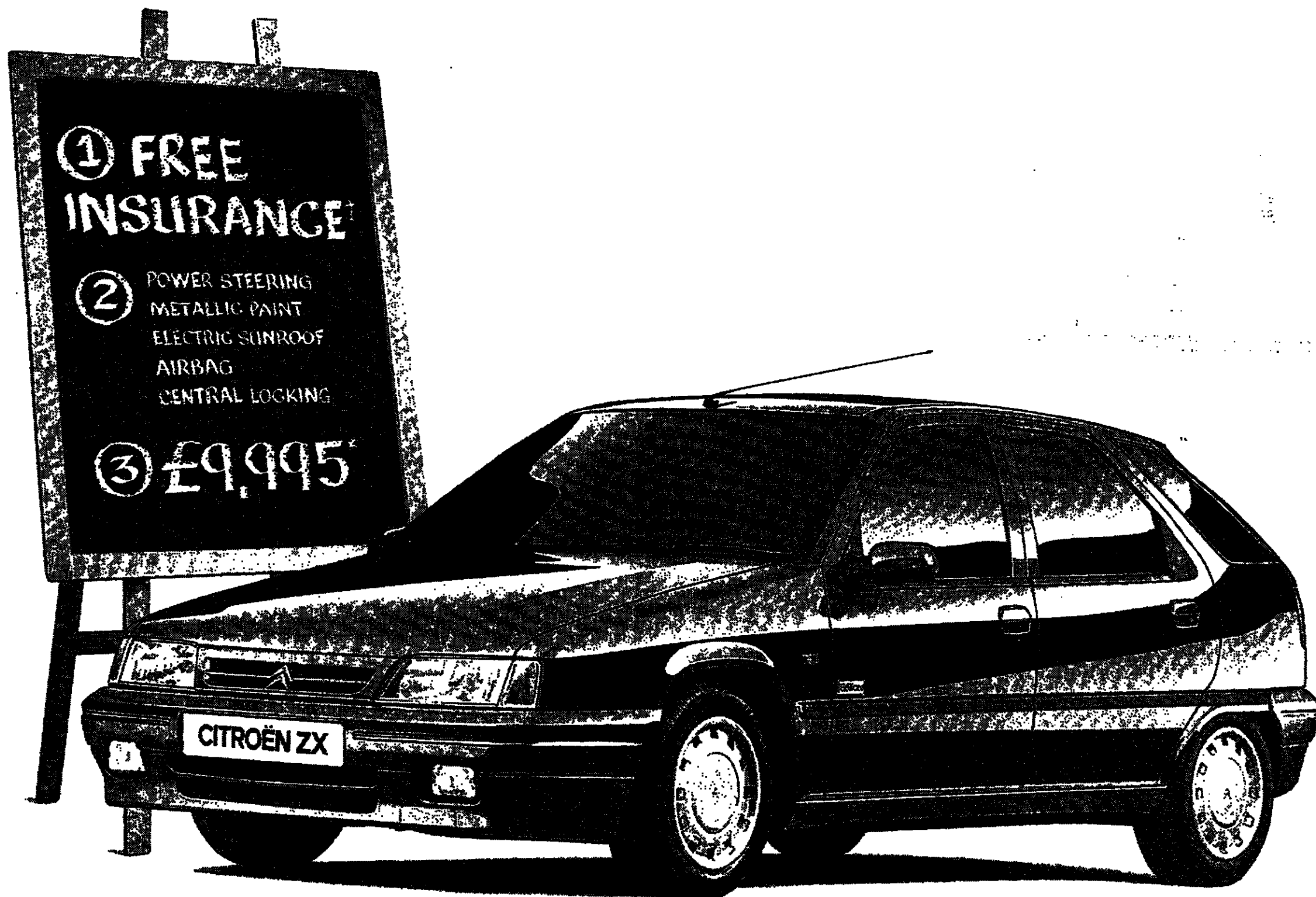
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'Difficult to see what could be more unfair than to leave them in the dark'

# Fayed brothers win right to challenge citizenship refusal

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MOHAMED AL FAYED, the chairman of Harrods, and his brother Ali yesterday won permission to challenge a government minister's refusal to grant them British citizenship.

Mr Justice Poplewell ruled that they could go to the High Court to argue that the procedure that led to the rejection being given without reasons was a "blatant" denial of natural justice. He gave the Egyptian-born brothers leave to seek a judicial review of the decisions by Nicholas Baker, the immigration minister.

Michael Beloff, QC, for both men, told the High Court that there was evidence from a former government chauffeur backing allegations that political reasons had been behind the decision to refuse the citizenship applications.

Mr Baker rejected both men's applications for British

citizenship in February. At the time the Home Office said there was nothing in the regulations requiring reasons to be given to the men, who have been resident in Britain for more than 30 years.

Mr Beloff said at no time had the brothers been told why their applications were rejected. "It was difficult to see what could be more unfair than to take a decision of such sensitivity and yet leave the victim in the dark as to his possible fate and deny him the opportunity to avoid it," he told the court.

The Home Office opposed yesterday's application, saying that it would subvert the intention of Parliament which stated in the 1981 British Nationality Act that the Secretary of State did not have to disclose the basis of his decision.

Stephen Richard, counsel

for the Home Office, said: "The applicants are seeking to make a nonsense of the statute." Under the law the Secretary of State had complete freedom to form his own judgment as to the appropriateness of granting citizenship, he said.

Outside the court, Michael Cole, director of public affairs for Harrods, said it was a satisfactory judgment. "They are satisfied we now have an opportunity to find out the real reasons for refusal of naturalisation to both of them. We are looking forward to getting this before a judge as soon as possible."

The brothers' commitment to this country was total, he said. "They give worthwhile employment to 5,000 British people, they are patriotic about Britain, they are not going to go and live anywhere else."



Mohamed Al Fayed in the Harrods food hall yesterday after his legal success

# Soccer chiefs seek aid to prosecute thugs overseas

By LUCY BERRINGTON

THE Government should help to fund the prosecution of known football hooligans abroad, Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League, said yesterday.

Mr Parry, speaking at a conference that united the football establishment and European MPs seeking to restrict the movements of hooligans, said: "It is essential that troublemakers who coalesce around the England national team know they face certain prosecution, rather than just deportation."

The conference, chaired by Glyn Ford, MEP for Greater Manchester East and a Manchester City supporter, is likely to lead to a report by Euro-MPs recommending a European-wide campaign against troublemakers. Mr Parry said: "Innocent supporters are rounded up and treated in a draconian way while troublemakers are not even being identified."

David Dein, vice-chairman of Arsenal, which on Wednesday lost the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Paris,

said: "Hooliganism is under control in local stadia, but activist movements latch onto travelling fans. The police abroad tend to treat all travelling English fans as potential criminals."

The idea of a central funding pool was mooted by John Williams of the Leicester University centre for football research. He said: "Foreign governments feel, rightly, they shouldn't have to pay for an English problem. At the moment they seem willing only to deport, which doesn't distinguish between the guilty and the innocent."

The police body heading the fight against football hooliganism was criticised for not taking part in the day-long hearing at the European Parliament's London offices. The football unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service was invited to give evidence but Mr Ford said, "I was told yesterday that the Home Office have advised them not to."

A Home Office spokeswoman said the department would submit written evidence.

# Russian songster works towards greater harmony

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER waiting a year for the chance to prove itself on Europe's most hotly contested stage, Russia is confident that it has the song, the style and the message for the biggest upset in the Eurovision Song Contest's four decades of competition.

On the eve of the 23-nation gala, Russia unveiled Filipp Kirkorov, a Freddie Mercury lookalike with long hair and a penchant for white suits. He has already refined his Eurovision theme and, in keeping with the VE-Day celebrations this week, has pledged to spread the message of peace to his fellow Europeans.

"My song is called *Volcano Lullaby*," he said before leaving for Dublin. "It's a lullaby for world peace, a sincere, traditional song, sung from the heart."

While few would contest his saccharin message, history is against him. Last year's Russian contestant managed only ninth place with a dreary ballad called *Eternal Wanderer*.

Nonetheless, Russia will be solidly behind its 28-year-old prodigy. Last year the kitschy contest attracted a widespread following, with

70 million viewers from Moscow to the Pacific tuning in to watch an Irish entry win for the third time in a row.

Kirkorov said he would not let down his fans and predicted that if he is in the right mood on the night he should be able to pull off an upset for the bookmakers' favourites Slovenia and Sweden.

"Every year the competition has a different mood: last year it was nostalgia, this year who knows?" he said. His only concern is that the host nation may bear a grudge against Russia after President Yeltsin's failure to emerge from his aircraft for a meeting with Irish leaders at Shannon airport last year, when it was rumoured the Kremlin boss was drunk.

"It is a shame that Russia presented itself in such a poor light last time in Shannon," he said. "I hope to compensate for Yeltsin's gaffe."

The accountants at RTE, Ireland's state broadcasting company, may privately be hoping that this year's Irish entry, *Dreamin'*, fails because victory would mean finding another £23 million to host the competition for a fourth consecutive year.

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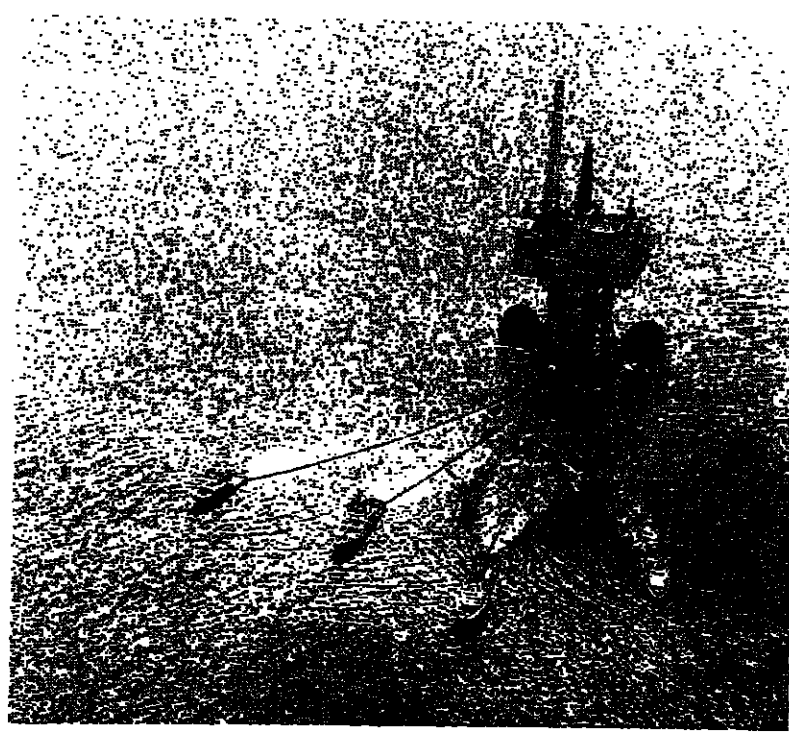
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'Grossly negligent' crew rammed ship and took pictures as seaman died in burning oil

## Unlawful killing verdict on tanker fireball deaths

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE South Korean crew of a cargo vessel that rammed a BP oil tanker in the English Channel, killing nine people, took photographs of the seamen as they fought for their lives in the burning sea, an inquest was told yesterday.

Verdicts of unlawful killing were recorded on the four British victims of the disaster in June 1993, when the *British Trent* was hit by the Hong Kong-owned bulk carrier *Western Winner* in thick fog off Ostend.

Survivors said at the inquest at Poole, Dorset, that the crew of the *Western Winner* made no attempt to rescue them. Instead, they ran for their cameras and began photographing the men swimming in the flaming oil which poured from the tanker's hull.

Adrian Dunn, chief engineer, said: "I remember seeing the freighter and the crew taking photos of us in the water. It was very close. They



did not make any moves to assist us." Another crewman said after the hearing: "They were animals, they just looked down on us and watched us struggle through their cameras."

Families of the nine men killed on the *British Trent* silently watched a recording of the collision as seen by traffic control radar. The signal from the bulk carrier *Western Winner* closed in on the *British Trent* before the two signals merged.

An official inquiry found that the *Western Winner* had been travelling at 11.5 knots, giving an emergency stopping distance of 700 metres, although visibility was between 50 and 200 metres. The *British*

*Trent*, disembarking a pilot, was virtually stationary. The tanker immediately erupted in flames, and after trying to fight the fire the crew were ordered by Captain Stanley Montague to abandon ship. As they were about to launch the lifeboat they were engulfed by a thick cloud of smoke containing cyanide gas and burning debris.

Captain Peter Dalby, the marine accident investigator who conducted the inquiry, told the inquest that the crew of the *Western Winner* had "committed every possible navigational sin" in the lead-up to the collision and was guilty of "gross negligence". They had refused to assist with the investigation and the

master, Captain Dae Pung Gang, had vanished.

Of the nine who died, four were British, two were Irish, and three were from Sierra Leone. The badly burned body of Electrical Officer Matthew Clements, 23, from Bourne-mouth, was washed up at Ostend seven weeks later.

Nigel Neville-Jones, the East Dorset Coroner, said: "The collision would never have happened had fundamental rules been observed. The *Western Winner* failed to comply with international rules relating to prevention of collision at sea."

The master had been "grossly negligent", and the coroner criticised Belgian sea traffic control for giving no warning that a very dangerous situation was developing. "That was inexcusable."

The British dead were: Chief Officer Adrian Hirst, 25, of Jarrow, Tyne and Wear; Third Engineer John Gray, 53, of Sunderland; Third Officer Robert Bold, 53, of York; Electrical Officer Clements.



The *British Trent*, struck in the fog after slowing down to disembark a pilot

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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## One school in eight puts pupils' futures at risk

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 500 state schools are failing and a further 2,500 are providing pupils with a "very poor" standard of education, the Government conceded yesterday.

Eric Forth, the Education Minister, accepted an estimate that one in eight schools had serious shortcomings which were jeopardising their pupils' futures. The figure, which exceeds any previous estimate, is a projection by Professor Michael Barber, of Keele University, based on inspection reports for the Office for Standards in Education.

Professor Barber, a senior education adviser to David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, demanded that inspectors be given fresh powers to identify bad teachers and heads in confidential reports. These should trigger "competence procedures" which could lead to their dismissal. He has sent to Tony Blair's private office a copy of detailed proposals to turn around bad schools.

Mr Forth said at a London conference that the figures did not surprise him. He said: "We have always recognised that there will be a hard core of schools failing. It is quite likely that the category of

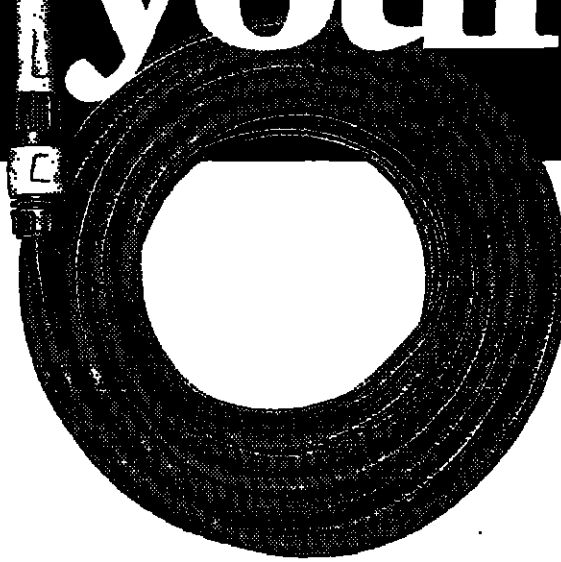
schools which are very poor is as high as 2,500."

When John Patten, the former Education Secretary, set up the new inspection regime two years ago he indicated that about 200 schools would be found to be failing. But about 50 schools with some 8,000 pupils have already been identified, three years before inspection of all 24,000 schools is completed.

Professor Barber told the conference that in addition to the 1 to 2 per cent of schools exposed as failing, inspectors reported that another 5 to 10 per cent were struggling. He said: "The chief distinction between 'failing' and 'struggling' is in the relative capacity of the school to improve from within. In the former, there will be little or no evidence of this capacity."

Professor Barber, a former policy adviser to the National Union of Teachers, said politicians could not afford to ignore the issue of poor education performance. He said: "While managing a successful school is infinitely more complex than controlling air traffic, failure in education is as catastrophic in its consequences as failure in the airline industry."

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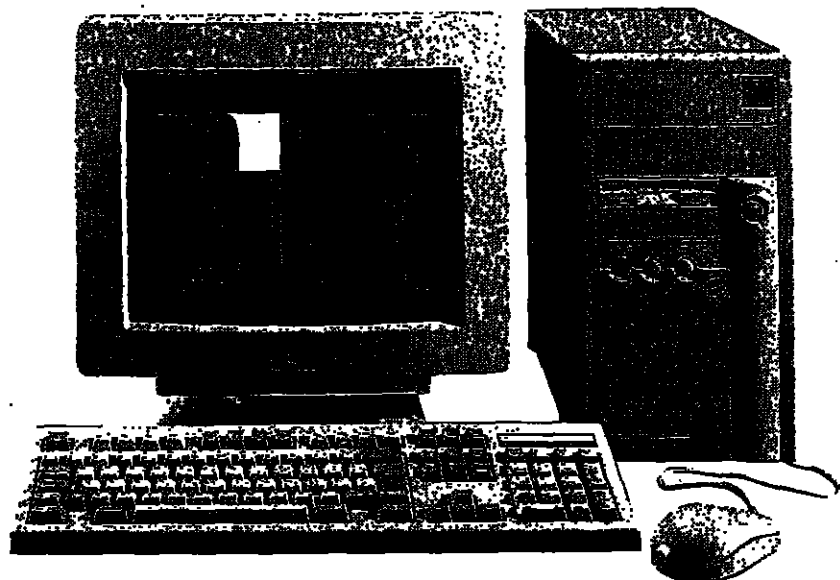
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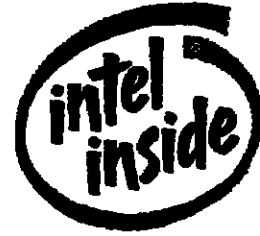
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WAY."

Worlock pays tribute to city's 'uncrushable character which inspires and endures'

## Archbishop retires from Liverpool's church, double act

THE retirement of the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, will bring to a close a remarkable era in church affairs.

During nearly 20 years in Liverpool, Dr Worlock transformed Roman Catholic-Anglican relations in Britain with the famous ecumenical "double act" he shared with the Right Rev David Sheppard, the Anglican bishop at the other end of Hope Street. Working together on campaigns, protest marches and behind the scenes, and through joint books such as *Better Together* in 1988 and its sequel last year, they helped to put Liverpool's social and political problems on the map.

Dr Worlock, who has suffered ill health for many years with a digestive condition and recently lung cancer, will retire when the Pope appoints a successor, probably before the year is out. But he made clear that he intended to remain as active as ever in church life.

He announced his retirement to the archdiocese's priests on Thursday. "When I woke up the next morning I thought I must be dead," he said yesterday. "I heard so many tributes on the radio, they sounded like my obituaries. One man on a radio station said he would try to raise me in half an hour while



Ruth Gledhill, above, religion correspondent, reflects on the unusual alliance of Hope Street

end to sectarianism. He considers he has made big advances in both areas, an opinion supported by the unprecedented step to make him and Dr Sheppard freemen of the city.

His retirement was expected, because under canon law bishops must offer to go at 75, which he reached in February. He said: "They want to begin consulting about a successor so it seems right to make the announcement now, even though I expect to be here for some months until a new man is appointed."

He has been a bishop for nearly 30 years, making him one of the longest-serving in the country. "So far as I am concerned, I have enjoyed every moment of my priesthood and every moment of being a bishop, with all its responsibilities. Even though I shall no longer be Archbishop of Liverpool, I hope to continue to be not only a priest, but also of service to the bishops' conference and general community in any way that is open to me."

He will continue his many speaking engagements, and to liaise between the hierarchy and the clergy through the annual National Conference of Priests, where he is the bishops' representative. "I do not intend to sink into doing



David Sheppard, left, describes Derek Worlock, his Roman Catholic counterpart, as shrewd and steady

nothing, I can assure you."

Dr Sheppard, who is expected to step down before the 1998 Lambeth Conference, said: "Derek Worlock has been a great bishop for the church and a great bishop for Liverpool. Through dark years for Liverpool and more recently through dark times of personal illness he has been a man of hope, hope rooted in his crucified and risen Lord. His

faith makes him look with shrewd and steady eyes at the whole world.

"He demonstrates his love of God in his love for Liverpool. He insists that loving thy neighbour must include that neighbour's need of a job, of decent housing and of freedom from prejudice and poverty."

The Vatican will immediately begin considering a successor and Dr Worlock has asked the senior auxiliary bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev John Rawsthorne, to take this forward. Clergy, monks, nuns, lay people and the deans of the archdiocese will be consulted in a process that is expected to take months.

Dr Worlock, who will become Archbishop Emeritus of Liverpool, is sure his successor will be a good choice. "The Pope has been here. He knows me and he knows a lot about Liverpool." Liverpool is a particularly important archdiocese because, with more than 500,000 Catholics, it is the biggest in England and Wales. This compares with 39,000 on the electoral roll in the Anglican Liverpool diocese.

At Your Service  
Weekend, page 2

## Grouse keepers blamed for hawk killings

By Gillian Bowditch  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

GAMEKEEPERS trying to protect valuable Scottish grouse moors are believed to be responsible for most of the poisonings and shootings of birds of prey last year.

A succession of poor grouse seasons in Scotland appears to have made some gamekeepers, who believe buzzards and hen harriers are taking their grouse chicks, more willing to risk prosecution.

There were 170 reported cases of illegal killings of birds of prey in Scotland last year, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. In 117 incidents where there were named suspects, 75 per cent of them were gamekeepers. The concentration of killings was also around grouse moors.

The RSPB said 53 deaths from poisoning were recorded. Overall, hen harriers bore the brunt of the persecution, with buzzards the most frequently poisoned species.

Of 71 incidents where the species killed could be identified, 31 involved hen harriers, 19 buzzards, 12 peregrine falcons, 4 golden eagles and 4 goshawks, of which there are only 90 pairs in Scotland.

While many landowners, particularly in the west Highlands and Borders, had taken action to conserve birds of prey, in grouse moors in Grampian and southern Scotland hen harriers and buzzards were still regularly persecuted. The four golden eagles killed were all found in grouse-shooting areas.

David Minns, head of public affairs in Scotland for the RSPB, said the increase in buzzard numbers to 6,000 pairs showed that poisoning was a decreasing problem. Gamekeepers were attacking the hen harrier, a species extremely loyal to its nest and chicks, by destroying nests.

The RSPB said that illegal killings had risen from 38 in 1985 to 170 last year, but much of that was due to increased reporting. Killings had remained static for the past two years. The RSPB believes the reported incidents last year represent only a small proportion of the actual killings.

## Religion is irrelevant without integrity in public and private life

LIFE as a journey is a common metaphor, not least for religious people. Journeying is often an untidy business, despite our best-laid plans. Much in life is unpredictable, including key points at which our integrity is tested and either established or blown apart. For Jesus, the wilderness temptations, his trial by Pilate and the Crucifixion were his sternest tests.

Losing our way can be agonising and take many forms. It may come through the loss of a loved one who was both a companion and a guide. It may come through the loss of roles or status in employment which have shored us up. Or on the journey we may have a crisis

of faith in which origins and destinies have little meaning. Or we may lose our way by the guilt of failure in key situations involving moral choice: for example leaving spouse and children, plotting to oust a colleague or shifting culpability for our own mistakes onto others. In such cases, we are said to lose our integrity.

Our identity and integrity are entwined. Identity is "being a specified person". Integrity is about honesty, wholeness and soundness — a term laced with ethical implications. Yet these simple definitions feel too static as we examine the complex nature of human biological, emotional, so-

cial, intellectual and moral development. Our journeying cannot avoid being a dynamic process, with a regular need to check our personal nature or temperament and ethical bearings if identity and integrity are to be sustained.

A helpful view of identity is that of "life story". We cannot know who we are unless we can piece together an adequate story of our

lives. Within that story there will be people, places, concepts, achievements, regrets, gifts, deprivations and losses. We have to make bearable sense of them all, a hard task if there has not been much warmth and stability in our lives, particularly as children. Our principal attachments to other people lie at the heart of identity.

Integrity, given minimally per-

mitting conditions, including initiation in our youth into a sense of right and wrong, is then an achievement derived from our personal behaviour in tight corners of moral choice. It is at such points that spiritual gifts can see us through, grace becoming available when our own resources are spent.

Too often for comfort, the ethical foundations of institutions of which we are a part — family, academia, politics, the law, business and industry, and the churches — are found wanting. A core task of organised religion is to call us individually and collectively to witness with integrity. Without that, in this modern age, religious

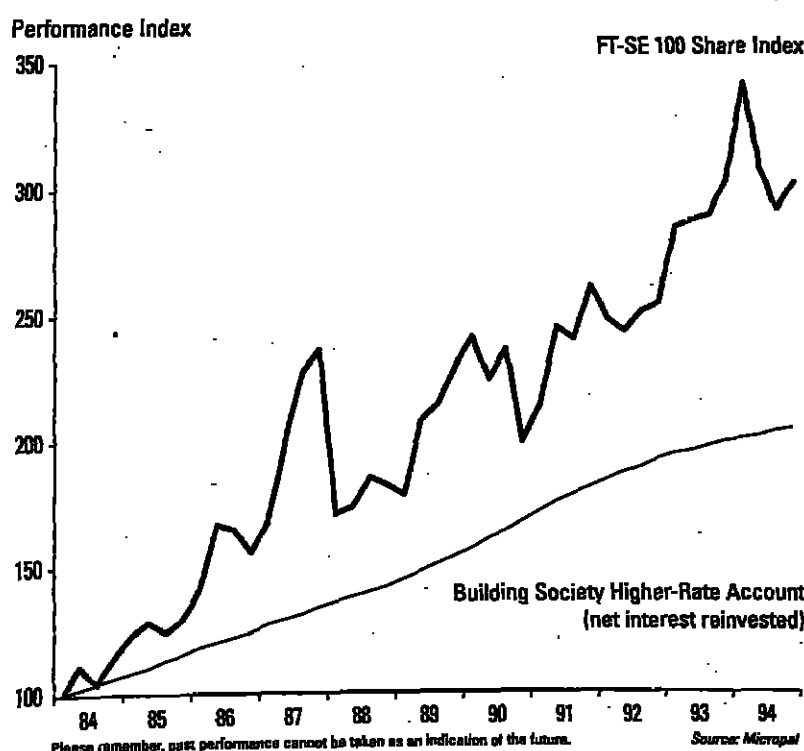
affiliations are understandably seen as an irrelevance.

Sometimes that witness will involve a sacrifice — a Calvary experience. There were many examples of that in the war conducted 50 years ago. Perhaps our integrity now needs to be assessed in the light of what we are making of the freedoms granted by those sacrifices. It was not only Christ who died for us, for reliability in our family life and for the integrity of our public institutions.

Professor Richard Whitfield is warden of St George's House, Windsor Castle, and honorary chairman of the National Family Trust.

### Uredo Professor Richard Whitfield

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HO 893



By PHILIP BASSETT AND JILL SHERMAN

He called for a fresh approach with a "proper constructive dialogue" between his party and business and said that he would embark on another nationwide tour to all Chambers of Commerce and regional CBIs. Over the next few months Mr Blair, John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman will stage a similar roadshow to the Clause Four campaign, to



**Tony Blair at the conference yesterday**

Mr Blair set out detailed Labour policies towards industry in seven key areas: education and training, a public-private partnership on industrial infrastructure, harnessing new technology, encouraging investment, tackling long-term unemployment, opening up markets for British business and encouraging small and medium-sized companies.

Richard Brown, BCC deputy director general, described Mr Bair's speech as "quite remarkable" although he remained sceptical about whether industry yet saw Labour as the party for business. "He will certainly have won over some hearts of business, if not their minds as well."

**THE** Labour leader of Hove wasted no time yesterday in stating that the town was unmanageable after 97 years rule.

Ivor Caplin ignored the corollary that the first meeting was meaningless no more than a mayor-making ceremony and launched into a social political agenda that shocked the new opposition.

immediately issued promises to slash the new opposition, live animal exports, abolish the transfer of council houses, block the of a hospital, slash bureaucracy, help Brighton and Hove Football Club.

Similar scenes are likely to follow in halls up and down the country the next week as newly elected councils take control of boroughs.

Top of Mr Caplin's need to end the "disgrace" of the export of live animals from the port of Shoreham, or New Brighton, or Newborough. He had already been the chief executive to see the closure of the quango which runs the port, and which legally he replaced by a private, not a public body. If this was the case, it was intended to win support for a change in the

As he laid out his Caplin recalled that taking place on the fir

agenda was the "existing trade" of fish through the waters along the edge of the study ordered the non-elected port could be a more democratic place, she said.

Even during the making of the new programme, Mr Caplin could not make a point of the anniversary of the law. He said the town's putting jobs in the would press- who carry out to pay for the the residents of the town and the angry she for longer in con- to the opposi- the massed majority bro-

Labour leader John "He will be smiling on Hove after what week," he said. of the new opposition miling, however. Janet order of the three-strong erat group, leapt to her nished speaking. "A h here is totally out of d angrily. tner, deputy leader of il Tories, leader, was so

not that her party was so  
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her to order.  
g the formal mayor-  
of the meeting. Mr  
not restrain himself from  
point. He presented  
ress, Rene Jordan, the

Caplin's 21 victorious council members broke with Hove tradition by wearing red roses in their buttonholes and the of the fur trimmed blue gowns and tricorne hats which the Tories and the old Democrats put on for the occasion.

...serving as a councillor for 20 years and attending 134 meetings last year alone. "He never bears malice," says Leslie Hamilton, a Labour member of the council who seconded his nomination. "He never takes offence." But he will struggle to keep the council in motion if the meetings he chairs are not the next year are anything like this year's.



Lawyer

100

**BY IAN MURRAY**

Similar scenes are likely in town halls up and down the country over the next week as newly elected Labour councils take control of boroughs in

As he laid out his programme, Mr Caplin recalled that the meeting was taking place on the first anniversary of

Even during the formal mayor-making part of the meeting, Mr. Caplin could not restrain himself from making a political point. He presented the new mayoress, Rene Jordan, the

He will struggle to keep this reputation if the meetings he chairs over the next year are anything like yesterday's.

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Sir Michael, whose future is in doubt after the election debacle, confronted Mr Major's critics and paid tribute to his qualities. "We have not forgotten John Major's leadership during the last election when he went on to confound the pundits and the pollsters by winning more votes than any leader in history.

heeded by everyone. He was publicly harangued by a Tory councillor at a civic reception in Glasgow on Thursday night. Helen Hodgins of Stirling council, which the party lost in last month's election, accused Sir Michael of poor leadership and of being out of touch with ordinary people.

Alastair Mackenzie, a for-

Later, in the conference hall, he attacked the Scottish Nationalists, saying their separatist creed would cost thousands of defence jobs. "The Scottish regiments, instead of being a glorious part of the best army in the world, would become an ill-equipped, low-morale gendarmarie aspiring to little more than the

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

The rules gave people little incentive to save for old age or buy a home, because they would be no better off than if they had spent a lifetime on social security. "This is not Conservatism, it's not even socialism -- it is communism. I didn't join the party to be-

Tens of thousands of people who could not bring themselves to vote Tory at the local elections were looking to the conference for signals that the party had learnt its lesson. A generation of loyal supporters had believed the Prime Minister when he said that in a Tory Britain the fruits of their labour would cascade down to the next generation. "The reality of the rhetoric for many has

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## Knife marks found on bones confirm grisly truth of theory dismissed by Dickens

# Trapped explorers were forced into cannibalism

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

MEMBERS of the ill-fated Franklin expedition to the Canadian Arctic 150 years ago were forced into cannibalism in a desperate bid to survive.

New evidence has been gathered by Barry Ranford, a Canadian who has led expeditions to search for remains of Sir John Franklin and his 133 men. Of 400 bones found at Erebus Bay on King William Island, 90 showed knife marks, Mr Ranford says, and a third of them had multiple cuts. He has also found evidence which he believes confirms the theory that lead from the tinned food the expedition carried may have poisoned them.

Dr Peter Wadhams of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, who has led

expeditions to the same area, says that he finds Mr Ranford's evidence on cannibalism fairly convincing. "The knife marks certainly look like signs of butchery," he says.

This is not the first time the expedition has been accused of cannibalism. "The charges were first made in 1854 by an expedition led by John Rae," Dr Wadhams says. They found bodies showing evidence of cannibalism. "But his claims were rejected indignantly by everybody — Charles Dickens wrote an article saying that British people simply wouldn't stoop to eating each other."

The Franklin expedition left Britain 150 years ago next week — on May 18 or 19, 1845

— aboard two ships, the *Erebus* and the *Terror*, in search of a passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Two years later, with no word of the explorers, searches were launched, but clear evidence of just what had happened did not emerge until 1859 when a final search party, sent by Lady Franklin, reached King William Island.

They found skeletons and a written account showing that the ships had become trapped in the ice in September 1846. By June the following year, Franklin and 24 others had died. The ships were abandoned in April 1848, the survivors heading south on foot. All perished.

In 1992 Mr Ranford discovered the skeletons of at least 11

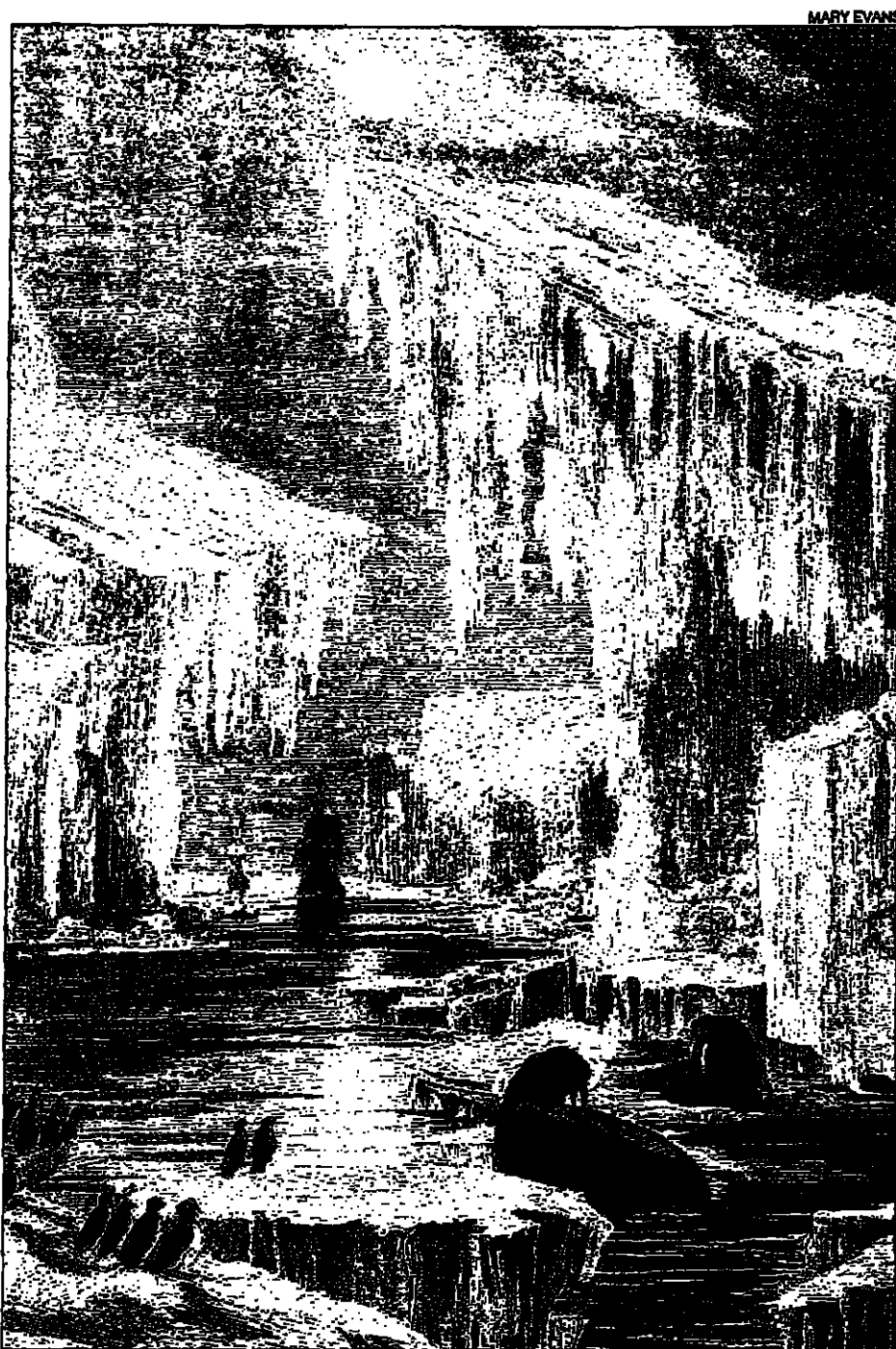
of them at Erebus Bay. Last year he mapped the positions of all the bones, and had them analysed. The results, given in a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society, have now been published in *Geographical* magazine.

Mr Ranford believes that they settle a long-standing argument over whether the lead solder in the tins contributed to the men's deaths. The analysis showed levels of lead in the bones three to ten times higher than top levels recommended by health organisations, and higher than normal levels of people in British cities in the 1850s.

"We know that the lead accumulated over a short period, which is symptomatic of lead poisoning from food cans, but it could also have been from their cutlery and water containers," he says.

Dr Wadhams says that he is not convinced by this evidence. "It's true the lead levels are high, which is consistent with these people eating preserved meat from tins sealed with lead solder," he says. "But the bones of those who died much earlier, and who would not have eaten so much tinned food, also show high lead levels. It may simply be that 19th-century pollution was so bad that everybody absorbed a lot."

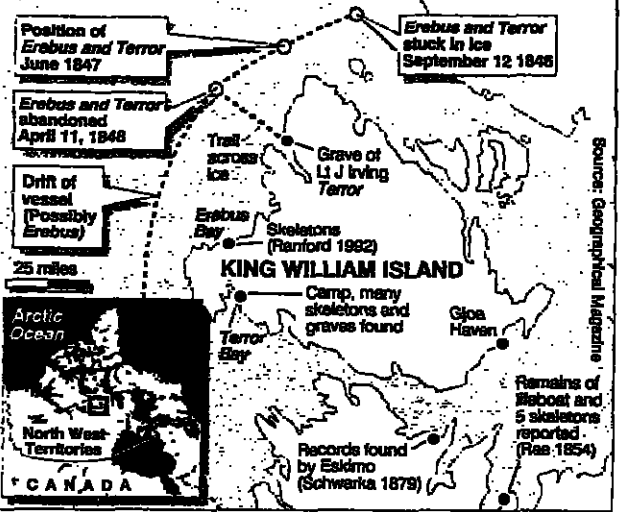
A complete navigation of the North-West Passage had to wait until the 20th century. Between 1903 and 1906 the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen completed the route in his tiny ship *Gjøa*.



Franklin's ships, *Erebus* and *Terror*, were trapped in the Arctic ice in 1846



Sir John Franklin, a veteran of Trafalgar, who led the doomed expedition



## Lawyers challenge Taylor's attempt to speed wheels of justice

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chief Justice's order that lawyers must cut waffle and meet tight trial deadlines or incur the cost of delays is running into strong opposition from the influential criminal bar.

Anne Rafferty, QC, vice-chairman of the 2,000-member Criminal Bar Association (CBA), says Lord Taylor of Gosforth's direction to judges to take a tougher line with lawyers was

imposing "unreasonable demands". Ms Rafferty, who is to put the criminal bar's concerns personally to the Lord Chief Justice, said barristers fully backed the principle of trying to cut costs and delays.

But there was "huge concern" among barristers practising in the criminal courts that if they could not meet those demands, they would be penalised by having to pay costs personally. The new policy, contained in a landmark direction issued by Lord Taylor in January,

took no account of how they did their work, she said yesterday.

"It is quite unrealistic to expect criminal barristers to be ready on a fixed day for a pre-trial hearing at Snaresbrook when they are part-way through a case at Harrow," she said. "It also assumes that all the papers have arrived, that you have managed to get a conference with the client at Brixton — itself a major hurdle — and that the Crown has served the case fully."

Ms Rafferty, a Crown Court

recorder and member of the Criminal Bar Association since 1986, is standing for chairman in the current ballot for the association's office holders. She would be the first woman to hold the post.

Ms Rafferty also highlights the need to tackle the competition for criminal work not just from defence solicitors but in the face of the push by Crown prosecutors for the right to take cases in the higher courts.

She says that the interests of the criminal bar must be protected on

the Bar Council, which recently agreed to lift the ban on barristers speaking to witnesses, in the face of opposition from the CBA. Ms Rafferty is being challenged to the post by Ronald Thwaites, QC, and another CBA committee member, Rock Tansey, QC.

Bar leaders will today discuss how to avert a cash shortage in the profession after the Lord Chancellor and senior judges turned down their request that all barristers be made to pay a subscription to the Bar

Council. The proposal that unless barristers pay a subscription they should not be allowed to take cases in court was put forward by Bar leaders facing a £150,000 shortfall. The decision could mean delays in reforms that the Bar Council is anxious to implement, unless it decides to impose an increase in subscriptions for those 95 per cent of barristers who do pay.

\*Leading article, page 19  
Law Report, page 36

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Boy, 16, accused of man's car death

A 16-year-old boy was remanded in custody by magistrates yesterday charged with the manslaughter of a man allegedly knocked down as he tried to stop a stolen car.

Alan Wilde, 46, a father of five, died outside his home at Salford, Greater Manchester. The boy, who cannot be named, is also accused of the aggravated taking of a car.

#### Freewheeling

Students at Portsmouth University are to be given the use of free bicycles in a £250,000 scheme to reduce traffic congestion. The cycles will be stored at sites across the city and secured with locks operated by plastic cards.

#### Murder charge

Richard Burton, 30, of Leicester, has been bailed to a secure psychiatric hospital charged with murdering Janice Symons, 57, the separated wife of Professor Martin Symons, an international expert in radiation chemistry, at her home in Leicester.

#### Dogs kill sheep

Thirty sheep were killed or put down after two dogs ran amok among a flock of 200 on a farm in Thanington, Kent. The dogs, an Alsatian and a lurcher, have been destroyed and their owner reported. The farmer said the field was like a battle ground.

#### PC dies in fall

An off-duty police officer fell 150ft to his death while climbing in Snowdonia. The body of PC Martin Chesters, 42, a crime prevention officer based at Willenhall, West Midlands, was found by climbers in Ogwen Valley.

#### Oh, Mr Porter!

A train driver on the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth line had to radio ahead for spare trousers after he took his off to cool down and they flew out of the window. British Rail said train cabs often became too hot on sunny days.

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39402

# 'Better than having an affair but more expensive'

OUTSIDE a newsagent's shop in the rundown Chapelfields suburb of York, a trail of discarded instant-win scratch cards testified to the wasted hopes of many players. A woman in her early thirties placated her two small children with sweets as she stood on the pavement, scrubbing feverishly at ten cards bought for a pound each. One of them produced a small win, most of which she spent on more cards.

Experts are concerned that the cards are introducing a highly addictive form of gambling into the National Lottery. "Scratch cards are like fruit machines," Dr Emanuel Moran, a psychologist who chairs the National Council on Gambling, said.

"They work on the principle of intermittent reward, which means you win small amounts now and then, which encourages you to go on. You get a wave of excitement from this, which we call the 'heartstopper'. This plays on the principle of habit



Anne McElvoy meets women from a rundown suburb who buy up to half-a-dozen of the National Lottery scratch cards every day

formation, which is present in us all."

Steven Cooper, the Chapelfields newsagent, sells £2,500 of cards a week. "They're infectious," he said. "I see people buy five or six a day, win a tenner and then continue to play until they lose everything. They are often women from the estate and I know they don't have a lot of spare cash."

"It's not my place to say anything. If I think it's getting out of hand, I'll have a joke with them and gently point out how much they're losing."

A grocery store in the Fulford Road area of the city is a centre for hopefuls ever

since someone won a jackpot of £940,000 on the weekly National Lottery from a ticket bought there last November, in that game's first week.

The manager, Andrew Pierce, who sells £3,700 of cards a week, said: "Unless they win a large amount, they almost always put the money into more cards. There seems to be something that stops people just walking away with their winnings."

Branches of Gamblers Anonymous in London, Sheffield and Manchester have had a wave of calls from people who feel that they are compulsive scratch-card players, including a distraught

woman who gambled away all her family housekeeping money. "A quarter of all our calls in the London area in the last two months have been about this," said a spokesman. He believed that scratch cards would increase covert betting. "A hardened gambler is not going to be interested in the weekly draw, because the link between the bet and the result is not so close. But with these cards, you have that little piece of hope right there in your hands."

Camelot, the lottery organiser, has sold £220 million of scratch cards, far beyond its expectations, since they were launched on March 21. The company has introduced a second game, with a lower jackpot and more smaller prizes, to appeal to those might tire of waiting for the £50,000 windfall.

American research suggests that 20 per cent of scratch-card gamblers buy 65 per cent of the tickets. Dr Moran would like to see a



An invitation to win — or lose — at the York shop

moratorium on new games. "My hope is that we can allow the rush on the cards to settle down. But that will not happen unless the promoters are prevented from diversifying their products."

Barbara Daly, a housewife on the Chapelfields estate, buys five cards a week. She said: "I enjoy doing this, whereas I wouldn't have the nerve to go to a bookie's or a

casino, which are men's places as far as I'm concerned."

Her friend Marjorie said that she did not tell her husband how much she spent on buying cards. "Everybody needs a bit of secret excitement and this is mine. It's better than having an affair."

"But more expensive," Mrs Daly added. Sue Fisher, a social scien-

tist at Plymouth University, who monitors gambling trends in Britain, said that the anonymity of scratch cards was a draw to women and young people. "You don't have to know the rules of the game, it isn't male dominated or associated with taboo places and there is no evidence that you've ever done it," she said.

Dr Fisher wants a national study of the effects of gambling liberalisation, which includes bigger top prizes in lotteries and bingo, lowering the minimum age for gambling to 16 and introducing Sunday betting.

The 1969 Gaming Act proceeded from the assumption that demand should not be stimulated. "Now," Dr Fisher said, "there is a huge encouragement to bet and it is sanctioned by the Government itself. We were sold the idea of a soft, passive lottery draw, a harmless flutter for everyone, but we may find that we have got much more than we bargained for."

## Terrorism sentence appeals refused

Two men jailed over a planned bombing campaign yesterday failed to convince the Court of Appeal that their prison terms were too long.

Martin McMahon, of Limerick, who led a group of 10 men in the Irish National Liberation Army, and Liam Heffernan, of Belfast, were arrested at a quarry in Somerset in 1993 as they prepared to steal explosives. The British security services had infiltrated the group. McMahon and Heffernan were jailed by the Old Bailey for 25 years and 23 years respectively for conspiring to cause explosions.

## Editor for trial

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, has been given leave by the High Court to seek the commitment to prison of Piers Morgan, the *News of the World* Editor, over an article about a man awaiting trial. A hearing will also be asked to jail Roger Inshall, a reporter, and to fine News Group Newspapers Ltd, publishers.

## Burglar's loss

A burglar who spent six weeks on bail buying back the antiques he had sold at a car boot sale escaped a prison sentence at Teesside Crown Court. John Walsh, 37, from Dalton, North Yorkshire, was given 240 hours' community service and fined £850 after he returned £3,000 of china stolen from a local antiques dealer.

## Boy detained

Two 14-year-old boys who appeared before magistrates 12 times over two years and were responsible for burglaries involving £380,000 worth of goods appeared before Nottingham Crown Court. Michael Reynolds, from Ashfield, was sentenced to three years' detention. The other boy was remanded back into custody.

## Wish granted

Church authorities have overturned a vicar's ruling that John Blackmore could not be buried alongside the rest of his family. He had moved six miles from where he was born in Broadbentbury, Devon, outside the parish of Willand. His son Bernard, 50, had appealed to the Queen.

## Car feud death

A man who killed his best friend after an argument about whose car was faster was jailed for seven years for manslaughter by Cardiff Crown Court. Martin Clayton, 24, a decorator from St Mellons, stabbed Darren Carr, 23, outside a pub after being teased about the car he had bought a month earlier.

## Thatcher ban

Mark Thatcher's biography has been banned because of eight words offending Saddam M. al-Sabah, a Kuwaiti prince. Mr Justice Belding at the High Court ordered the withdrawal of *Thatcher's Gold* after a hearing in chambers. Simon & Schuster, the publishers, will have to pay legal costs of about £25,000.

## Bubble returns

A building company boss has bought back for £5,000 the Messerschmitt bubble car he sold in 1965 for £65. Roy Young, 48, of Monmouth, Gwent, saw the three-wheeler at a classic car auction in Birmingham. He had spent several years trying to trace it through the Messerschmitt owners' club.

Both sides vow to fight on for right to jackpot won on Instants scratch card game

## Woman can spend half of disputed £50,000 lottery win

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

A WOMAN whose bank account was frozen because of a dispute with her former boyfriend over a lottery scratch card win was told by a High Court judge yesterday that she could spend half the money.

Carole Cartman, 34, from Nottingham, claims she is entitled to the whole £50,000 win on National Lottery Instants in April. Stefan Broniewski, 26, claims that he is entitled to half the money as he gave Miss Cartman the cards.

Last week Miss Cartman's bank account was frozen by the court, but Mr Justice Latham, sitting in chambers at Lincoln, ruled that Miss Cartman could have access to £25,000. The remaining £25,000 will stay frozen pending a further High Court hearing in Nottingham.

Miss Cartman won the prize after scratching 23 Instants cards. She won an initial £50 prize and pur-

chased ten more cards, among which was the £50,000 winner. Mr Broniewski, who owns a cafe, claims that he gave Miss Cartman the 23 lottery cards and that the pair agreed they would share any winnings. But when she won the jackpot she refused to share the money and forced him out of their Nottingham home, he says.

Miss Cartman, who has five children aged between one and six, said after the hearing that she would continue to fight for the other £25,000. "It might take a year to get the case settled, but it's my money. I paid for the card and I scratched it. He's not entitled to any of the cash. The man has shown his true colours and I have found out he is just greedy."

She said she would spend the money she had been given on her children. "Now I'm going home to get some things for the kids and the house. After that I'm going to take the

children to Disneyworld. So some good will have come out of it," she said.

Mr Broniewski said after the judge's ruling that he would continue to fight for his share. "As far as I'm concerned she's entitled to half and she can have it with pleasure. I know what really happened. That card was bought with my money and that's all there is to it."

Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, is planning to launch a second weekly televised draw for the main game early next year.

Jackpots for the second draw, to be broadcast on BBC1 on Wednesday evenings, are expected to reach £2 to £3 million, considerably smaller than the present £8 million jackpots. Tickets will go on sale between Sunday and Wednesday evenings. The lottery's existing Saturday draw will remain.

A spokesman for Camelot said that the company hoped that the second draw would help to even out sales during the week. At present 70 per cent of sales take place on Fridays and Saturdays, causing crowding problems. Camelot and the BBC are also developing a television lottery



Cartman: "He's not entitled to any of the cash". Broniewski: "That card was bought with my money"



game show, to be launched in the autumn, based on the Instants game.

It emerged yesterday that nearly £18 million of prizes from the lottery are still waiting to be claimed. More than £622,856 of the

unclaimed winnings come from the first draw on November 19. As there is a 180-day deadline for collecting lottery prizes, players have until midnight next Wednesday to claim first-draw winnings. The winning numbers from

the first draw were: 30, 3, 5, 44, 14, 22 (bonus number 10). Money not collected by then, will be given, with interest, to the five good causes to benefit from the lottery: the arts, charities, sports, heritage and the millennium celebrations.

## Musical scholars trace Haydn's unknown gem

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PREVIOUSLY unknown work by Haydn is to be given its first performance in more than 200 years. The Divertimento in G, one of his earliest compositions, has been pieced together from eight sources.

Manfred Huss was among musicians and scholars whose detective work tracked down various copies of the work in monasteries and castles near cities such as Dresden and Salzburg. He will be conducting the Haydn Sinfonietta of Vienna at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, the very hall in which Haydn received his doctorate in July 1791.

Mr Huss said there may be many more divertimenti to be discovered, as Haydn's letters refer to him having composed dozens of them.

The leading Haydn scholar, H.C. Robbins Landon,

said that dozens of other Haydn manuscripts were likely to surface in the light of political changes in Eastern Europe. "In Prague in 1958, I found 12 lost works in two weeks," he said. "They had been lying around in the Prague Academy." But, he said, the manuscripts are likely to be smuggled out and quietly sold.

He described the most recently found divertimento, which is about 20 minutes long, as a "very pretty" work. He added: "It will win a lot of friends for Haydn, just as Mozart's have in the past ten years."

Mr Huss said: "This work dates from the very early period of composing, between 1750 and 1765." He added that the listener would recognise Haydn from the first four bars, despite it being one of his earliest

pieces. "It was the end of the baroque period when he composed it. This is in an entirely new, classic style. So fresh."

Another Haydn manuscript that recently surfaced comes up for sale at Sotheby's next week. Up to £750,000 is expected for the working draft of his four string quartets, Opus 50, Numbers 3, 4, 5 and 6, described by Professor Robbins Landon as "this crucial series of quartets". Such is the excitement over the manuscript that Sotheby's refers to it as the most important Haydn manuscript to be offered since the Second World War.

The manuscript first emerged in Australia in 1982: a woman approached experts at a Haydn Festival in Melbourne and showed them what she had kept in a padded brown bag under her



Haydn: early work

bed. It had been in her family for more than 100 years, after being bought in London.

Although they knew it was by Haydn, she had no idea that scholars had considered it lost. More than a decade later, she has decided to sell it. "It is not doing anybody any good in a bank vault," she said.

The Sheldonian concert takes place on June 5. Sotheby's sale will be held on May 18.

## EU drivers to be given plastic photo licence

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

A PLASTIC, credit-card sized driving licence, incorporating a photograph of the driver, is to be introduced in the European Union from July 1996, the European Commission announced yesterday.

It will be up to each EU country whether to introduce the licence — and whether it will replace the existing paper licence or be used alongside it.

The information required about the driver and vehicle will be the same in all 15 EU member states, so that a licence issued in one country will be recognised in all others. National licensing authorities will also be able to include additional information, such as security features to prevent misuse, after approval from Brussels.

The reverse of each licence will carry an exhaustive list, in symbolic form, of the types of

road vehicle which can be licensed in the EU. Licences will be available in one of the 11 official languages, or in a combination of one official language and one local language, such as English and Welsh.

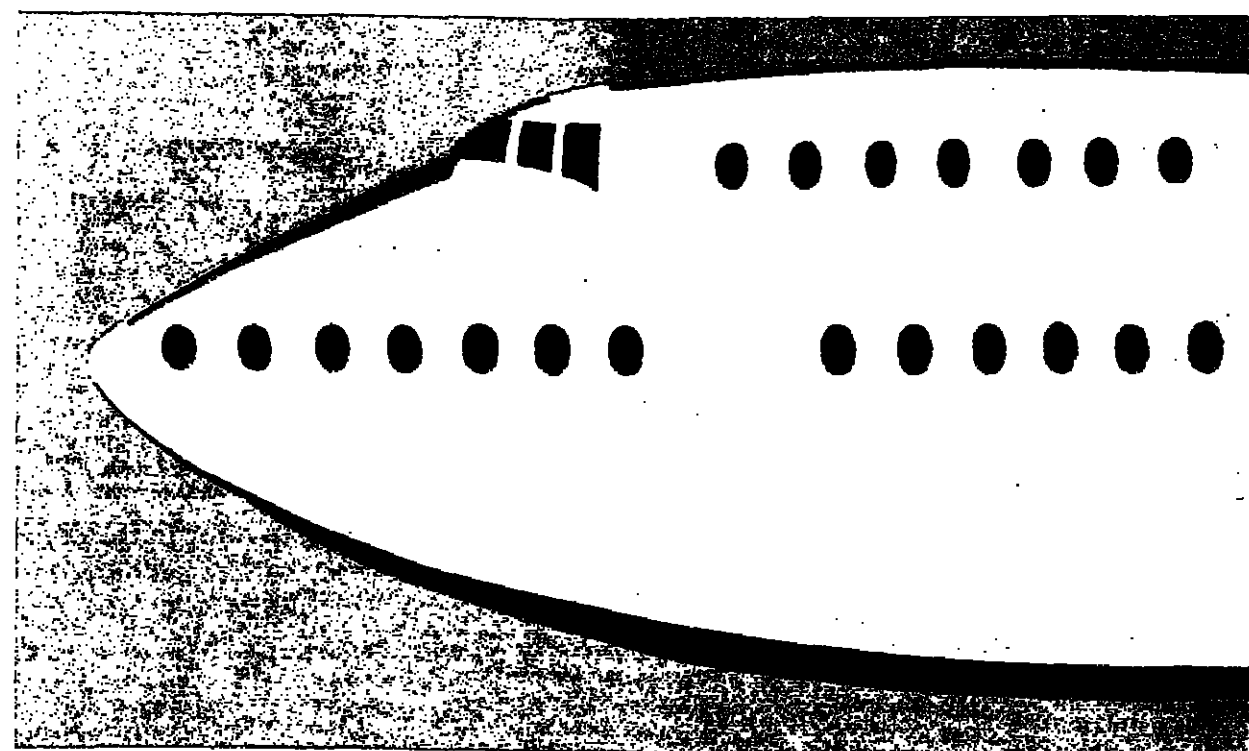
The Commission decided to introduce the option of a plastic credit-card style driving licence after the accession to the EU of Sweden and Finland in January. Both countries already have the new format licences, and were reluctant to reintroduce paper licences. Photographs were incorporated into the new design at the request of Britain, a move that also had the backing of Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner.

The new European licence could later be modified to incorporate a microchip capable of storing information such as the number and type of the holder's driving offences, in

addition to the personal details currently required by the licensing authorities. But this would require new EU legislation to protect privacy, Commission officials said.

Seeking to fend off criticism from civil liberties groups, the Commission insisted that the move entailed "no infringement, potential or otherwise, of civil liberties". The new licence "may not replace or double-up as an official identity card," the Commission said. It is up to each licence-holder to decide if they want to use it as "a source of information for personal identification".

Nearly two-thirds of the public would support the introduction of identity cards, according to an opinion survey being broadcast today on BBC Radio 5 Live's *Crime: the True Story*. The Government is shortly to publish a Green Paper on the idea.



There's a cabin on our planes that isn't at the front, or at the back. The seats and legroom are what other airlines would call business class. You get your own TV and your own check in. But the price is just full fare economy. It's called Premium Economy.

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# Ukraine delighted by Clinton pledge on military ties

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN KIEV

PRESIDENT CLINTON was given a rapturous welcome by thousands of Ukrainians when he spoke at the Shechenko University in Kiev yesterday.

As he left, the crowd pushed forward and almost engulfed him. The atmosphere was in sharp contrast to the chilly and dispassionate reception the American leader received in Moscow earlier in the week.

The only jarring note came with a few placards held up by radical nationalist demonstrators calling attention to the Russian war in Chechnya and accusing Washington of weakness and even treachery.

"Clinton: You have sold Eastern Europe to Russia!" one of them read.

A more cheerful tone was sounded by students with Elvis Presley hairstyles who carried banners with the face of the rock'n'roll king and marched through the crowd, announcing that they were showing their respect for American culture.

As in all new love affairs, not everything said in the American and Ukrainian speeches yesterday was to be taken seriously by outsiders. Announcing the award of an honorary doctorate to Mr Clinton, a student representative called him "an outstanding political leader of the 20th century".

For his part, Mr Clinton described Ukraine as one of the oldest nations in Europe. He said that the United States and Ukraine had been allies in

the Second World War, and added that in 1945 American troops had linked up with the "First Ukrainian Army" on the Elbe. He presumably meant the First Ukrainian Front of the Soviet Army; under Soviet rule, Ukraine was not generally encouraged to have its own armies.

In a statement that is bound to cause concern in Moscow, Mr Clinton pledged increasing military co-operation between America and Ukraine.

"We will increase defence contacts between our nations, consult with each other as Nato prepares to expand, and foster military co-operation between our peoples", President Clinton said. The Ukrainian Government and industrial managers have been pressing hard for several months to be allowed access to international arms markets and to begin co-operation, especially in space technology.

Mr Clinton thanked Ukrainians for their "courageous decision" to give up the nuclear missiles they inherited from the Soviet Union, saying that without that the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would not have been possible. "I am proud of the leadership of the United States in securing the passage of that treaty, but I am also proud of Ukraine, and you should be proud too," Mr Clinton said.

He expressed strong political support for President Kuchma and his economic reforms, speaking of his "bold

and far-sighted leadership". Mr Clinton pointed to the \$2.7 billion (£1.7 billion) in aid from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund provided with American encouragement, and promised to urge the other members of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations to provide more aid at their meeting in Canada next month.

Standing beside Mr Clinton during his visit, President Kuchma has seemed at times barely able to contain his delight. The two men have made a strange physical contrast. The enormous President Clinton, with his protuberant jaw and easy smile, looms over the minute Mr Kuchma with his protuberant nose that makes him look rather like an amiable garden gnome that the American leader had brought with him for company.

Mr Clinton told the crowd at the university that he knew of the economic suffering and insecurity in Ukraine caused by economic reform and said that "the toll is bitter, but the harvest is sweet, and in time will give you and your children the chance to realise your God-given potential".

President Clinton went on from the university to the memorial at the ravine of Babi Yar where up to 200,000 mainly Jewish people were murdered by the Nazis and their Ukrainian auxiliaries during the Second World War. He flew back to Washington last night.



President Clinton speaks yesterday at the Babi Yar memorial in Kiev. Up to 200,000 people, mostly Jews, were murdered there during the war

## Dole condemned for criticising President abroad

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS and White House officials reacted angrily yesterday to Republican charges that President Clinton's summit in Russia was a flop.

Although Democrats conceded that little was accomplished, they said it was an ill-mannered and unprecedented breach of protocol to criticise the President while he was still abroad. They accused the Republican Senate leader, Robert Dole, of trying

to gain points for his presidential campaign by describing the summit as a failure.

"We very much regret the comments of Senator Dole," said Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff. "I think they were spoken more as candidate Dole than Senate leader Dole".

Mr Dole, unrepentant, repeated his accusation on the Senate floor and said that Republicans controlling Congress would be looking closely at American aid to Russia, which is

running at more than \$800 million (£513 million) a year. Some of the aid may be halted, Mr Dole said.

According to Mr Dole, it was not partisan politics to say the summit made little progress but simply a review of the facts. President Yeltsin still intended to sell nuclear technology to the "outlaw regime" in Iran and Russian helicopters had fired on civilians in Chechnya just minutes after the summit concluded. Also, the issue of Nato's expansion was unresolved.

Another Republican senator, Mitch McConnell, who is the chairman of a Foreign Aid Committee, said it was an embarrassment that the President "went to Moscow to watch a parade at President Yeltsin's behest and brought home nothing".

President Clinton steadfastly ignored any questions about the issue as he posed for photographers during his visit to Kiev yesterday. However, his press secretary, Mike McCurry, accused the Republicans of "making political hay".

## Beverly Hills offers a little Moore art to the masses

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BEVERLY HILLS, where art is usually bought first and enjoyed later, has unveiled a startling attempt to bring sculpture to the masses.

Removing the muslin sheets from nine monumental statues placed on the manicured lawns of the Rodeo Drive shopping district, the mayor declared yesterday Henry Moore Day, in honour of the British sculptor who died in 1986.

Moore would probably be pleased with the venue for the largest public exhibition of his work to be held in the Los Angeles area since 1973. "Sculpture is an art of the open air," he once wrote. "I would rather have a piece of my sculpture put in a landscape, almost any landscape, than in, or on, the most beautiful building I know." Only one

item in the exhibition is indoors: a burnished 1985 bronze that will spend the next three months reflecting the gilded rounda of Beverly Hills city hall, and the curious stares of its employees.

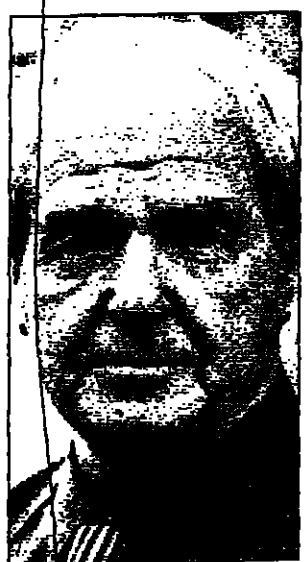
The remaining sculptures will bathe in the sunlight Moore thought suited them best, six of them on the verge of Santa Monica Boulevard, one of the city's most famous arteries. These works, including eight more bronzes and a 1,200lb reclining figure in Roman travertine marble, span four decades of the artist's career.

A total of 70,000 cars will drive past them each day, according to the manager of the private gallery that has assembled the exhibition. Whether their drivers will pause to look is another matter: as it passes through Beverly Hills, Santa Monica Boulevard is a thundering six-lane highway where no stopping is allowed.

This is of no concern to Clarence Smith, 56, who lives out of a supermarket trolley and spent the eve of the exhibition's opening bellowing at traffic from a bus stop opposite a shrouded "Two-Piece Reclining Figure: Points", an abstract bronze of a headless woman sculpted by Moore in 1969.

Asked if he would wait to see the sculpture unshrouded, Mr Smith replied: "I'll be here. Maybe I'll go down the street and come back again, but when the sun comes up I'll be here."

The sculptures, five of them airlifted to Los Angeles from Europe, are on display until August 15.



Moore liked his work to be shown outdoors

## Portugal's royal pretender to marry

FROM MARTHA DE LA CAL IN LISBON

DOM DUARTE PIO, the 23rd Duke of Braganza and the pretender to the throne of Portugal, will marry Isabel Ines de Castro Curvello de Heredia today in the 15th century Jeronimos Monastery church in Lisbon.

She is a 28-year-old assistant director of a management firm and descendant of Spanish noblemen who came to Portugal in the 15th century. The duke, who will be 50 the day after the wedding, has eased fears of monarchists concerned that there was no heir to the throne.

The guest list runs to 1,700 people, including the Portuguese President, Prime Minister and all of the Government. Members of the royal families of France, Luxembourg, Spain, France and others are also invited.

The wedding is being treated as a royal wedding, the first in Portugal in 110 years, even though he is only the pretender to Portugal's now extinct throne.

The title dates from 1440 when it was bestowed by King João I on his bastard son by the beautiful daughter of a Jewish shoemaker in the town of Guarda. The Dukes of Braganza did not come to the throne until 1640 when the Spanish usurpers Philip II and his sons, who had ruled from 1580, were overthrown. The Braganzas governed until 1910. In 1908 the king was assassinated along with his heir, and the younger son was able to



Dom Duarte Pio, the 23rd Duke of Braganza, with his fiancée Isabel Ines de Castro Curvello de Heredia

hang on to power for only two years. He and the family went into exile in England. The Duke was born in the Portuguese legation in Bern, Switzerland. He attended the Military Academy and the Higher Institute of Agronomy in Lisbon and served as a helicopter pilot in Angola between 1968 and 1971.

The Duke is an ardent environmentalist and a defender of human rights in Portuguese East Timor and the former Portuguese territories in Africa. He is also involved in the preservation of Portugal's cultural heritage.

These views will be put to test at the church where he will be married. Since April 25 archaeologists, historians, parliamentarians and others have been staging a peaceful demonstration against the building of a dam on the Côa

River in the north of Portugal that will submerge 20,000-year-old rock engravings. The demonstrators set up nine tents on the grass in front of the Archaeological Museum, adjoining the church, with the approval of the museum director.

Yesterday morning police arrived to evict them. They took down one tent, saying the demonstrators were interfering with the wedding. The demonstrators, led by Eurico Figueiredo, a Socialist MP, decided to hold their ground, saying they had nothing against the wedding. "After all," said one, "the monarchy is part of our national heritage."

Yesterday afternoon the Duke of Braganza talked to the demonstrators. "I agree with you," he told them. "I agree with your fight to preserve the rock engravings."

## Harriman gains £12m from sale of three masterpieces

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PAMELA HARRIMAN, the American Ambassador to France and a prominent member of the Churchill family, has sold three masterpieces at auction in New York in an apparent effort to meet the costs of litigation by her stepchildren.

The paintings by Picasso, Renoir and Matisse fetched almost \$19 million (£12.6 million) at Christie's on Thursday night, with Picasso's 1922 *Mère et Enfant* bringing in \$11.9 million alone.

The auction house said Mrs Harriman, the mother of Winston Churchill MP and daughter-in-law of the late Sir Winston, had followed the sale by telephone and was "very

pleased" with the result. Mrs Harriman is believed to want the money to settle suits filed by the daughters of her third husband, the late Averell Harriman, an art collector, politician, financier and former US Ambassador to Britain.

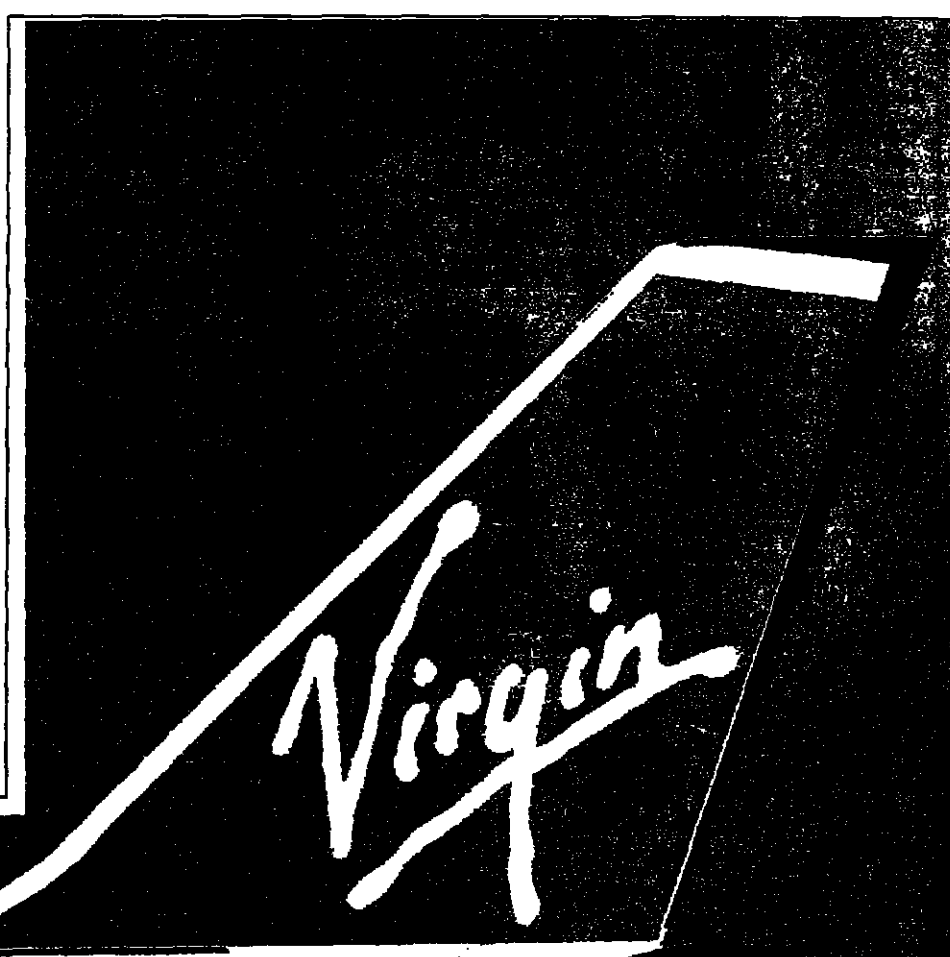
The two stepchildren, now in their 70s, claim that Mrs Harriman has squandered trust funds set up for them after their father's death in 1986 by investing in a former *Playboy* mansion in New Jersey and making other bad financial decisions.

The multimillion-dollar suit has proved a severe embarrassment for Mrs Harriman, a celebrated Washington hostess who was appointed to her

present post in Paris after serving as a co-chairman of Bill Clinton's presidential campaign.

Two leading Washington figures who acted as trustees are also named in the litigation — Clark Clifford, former President Johnson's Defence Secretary and special counsel to President Truman, and Paul Warnke, who was also a member of the Johnson Administration.

Mr Harriman gave the paintings to his wife on their tenth anniversary. Some believe that he wanted the paintings to join his bequest of French masterpieces at the National Gallery in Washington when she died.



Chirac juggles demands of a neglected spouse with the ambitions of two loyal lieutenants

## Old foes wage new battle

IF YOU enjoyed watching the fratricidal duel between Jacques Chirac and Edouard Balladur, his disloyal lieutenant, you will love the new feud now opening under the Gaullist presidency.

Unlike the former clash, in which the Gaullist Premier and party leader kept up appearances of friendship, the new battle pits a pair of would-be presidents who have openly disliked each other since 1979.

On the right is Alain Juppé, 49, the sleek Europhile technocrat and acting Gaullist leader whom President Chirac is expected to appoint Prime Minister next week. On the left is Philippe Séguin, 52, the rotund parliamentary boss, passionate anti-Maastricht orator, and pillar of the Chirac campaign. He thinks he deserves the premiership. Both sport giant egos and very thin skins.

As M. Chirac put together his team this week, the volcanic M. Séguin nursed his wrath in the Hôtel Lassay, the

### PARIS FILE

by CHARLES BREMNER



palace he inhabits as President of the National Assembly. He is brooding in Shakespearean fashion over the wrong that the ungrateful Jacques seems about to inflict on him. If, as suspected, the cerebral M. Juppé is confirmed in the premiership and party leadership, his *frère ennemi* will be out to ambush his Government if it fails to enact M. Chirac's pledges for a break with the economic orthodoxy of the past 12 years.

"Juppé is a Balladurian technocrat," growls the chain-smoking M. Séguin. "We'll be back to the same elite."

For 16 years these two spiritual heirs of M. Chirac have vied for future leadership. While M. Juppé, the

outgoing Foreign Minister, has steered a flawless track in M. Chirac's wake, the eloquent M. Séguin has trodden a turbulent path.

A *piéd noir* from Tunisia and graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, he built a political fiefdom in the Vosges and served as a minister in the 1980s before briefly rebelling against M. Chirac. Stardom came when he led the drive against the Maastricht treaty, winning the support of 49 per cent of the electorate in the 1992 referendum.

M. Chirac's espousal of the Séguin creed is credited with turning the tide in the presidential campaign. He borrowed M. Séguin's own

catchphrases to attack the "social fracture" and the *pensée unique* of the technocrats. He corralled the votes of the young and the unemployed by flirting with M. Séguin's *autre politique*, his recipe for adopting a reflationary approach similar to Britain's.

M. Séguin believed he deserved a big reward, but M. Chirac seems to have opted for the safe bet, favouring the reassuring M. Juppé. Among other reasons, he knows that a Séguin premiership would cause apoplexy in Germany and upheaval on the financial markets. Unwilling to contemplate service under his rival, M. Séguin is understood to have told his boss he prefers to stay on in parliament. There he would supervise reforms aimed at giving more power to what is now a toothless institution.

Trying hard to balance the powers of his two barons, M. Chirac offered M. Séguin the chance to succeed him as Mayor of Paris but he turned it down, preferring to keep his independence. M. Juppé, meanwhile, is to become Mayor of Bordeaux.

M. Séguin is already on the warpath, incensed at M. Chirac's apparent desire to have M. Juppé confirmed as Gaullist leader in the autumn. "Jacques absolutely has to find a way to keep Philippe from blowing him up," said a Séguiniste MP.



President-elect Chirac and his wife, Bernadette, in Paris yesterday

## First family comes under microscope

FOR nearly 14 years, France turned a blind eye to the colourful private life of President Mitterrand. With the tabloid fading a little, the Chirac family is coming in for closer scrutiny, though not on the soap operatic level of American first families. Even *Le Monde*, the most august of establishment organs, noted on its front page this week that all was not roses between Jacques and Bernadette.

Like much of France, the newspaper had been startled by a candid radio interview in which the new *première dame* complained about her husband's neglect of their marriage. "Since he has been in politics our private life has been relatively restricted. I now expect a very frank and authentic dialogue, of the kind that exists in a normal couple," she said.

Mme Chirac, 61, is normally the stud of discretion but she has been known to put her foot down publicly before, sometimes treating her hyper-energetic husband like a wayward teenager. The image is one she aired herself last month, calling him a spoilt child.

As the Chiracs pack up their household at the Hôtel de Ville for the move to the Elysée Palace, the limelight has also turned to Claude, the 31-year-old daughter whose efforts as campaign organiser did so much to get him elected. For months she had shunned publicity and said she planned to leave France for a new life once her father was elected. Now a media star in her own right, she is said to be having second thoughts and contemplating another job with Dad.

## Reckless drivers await pardon

Road deaths in France have rocketed in the past two months and everyone, from the police to the man in the bistro, knows exactly why. Anticipation of the traditional amnesty by new presidents has caused drivers to throw the highway code to the wind.

Most of the 16 per cent rise in deaths in March was attributable to speeding, which is

not surprising, given the free-for-all engendered by the amnesty. Expect four more days of more reckless than usual driving. Unless he wants insurrection, President Chirac will, like his predecessors on taking office, forgive all outstanding parking tickets and motoring offences other than drink-driving and causing death or injury.

## Court questions Claes over bribes

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

WILLY CLAES, the Nato Secretary-General, was interrogated by Belgium's highest court yesterday over his alleged role in Belgium's multimillion-pound defence contract corruption scandal, which has led to the resignation of four senior ministers during the past 16 months.

Mr Claes, Belgium's former Economic Affairs Minister, has been linked to allegations that Agusta, the Italian helicopter firm, used a £1 million slush fund to bribe leading Flemish Socialists to win a defence contract to supply helicopters to the Belgian Army in 1988.

Parliament last month voted overwhelmingly to grant

the court the authority to cross-examine Mr Claes and two other senior politicians, after revelations of corruption in high places rocked Belgium's political elite. Mr Claes's private and official residences were immediately searched by police.

It is understood that Mr Claes was questioned about a payment of £1.15 million to the Flemish Socialist Party shortly after the Italian company was awarded the £1 billion helicopter contract. After earlier denials, Mr Claes admitted that he had been notified that Agusta had offered his party a "gift" which said he had declined.

The bribe was offered to Etienne Maigne, the former

party treasurer, who told his lawyers that he decided to ignore Mr Claes's advice and accept the money. Mr Maigne, along with three other defendants, has been in jail in Liège since February. Three more party members have since been charged with bookkeeping irregularities, including Carla Galle, the long-time companion of Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner.

The court's cross-examination comes at an awkward time for Mr Claes, who faces an exceptionally heavy Nato workload, including overseeing the deteriorating situation in the former Yugoslavia. He is

due to travel to Athens and Ankara next week to help to resolve the Greek-Turkish dispute which has blocked approval of the Nato budget. He is also due to chair a meeting of Nato foreign ministers at the end of the month to review Nato proposals to expand into Eastern Europe.

Mr Claes yesterday refused to respond to reporters' questions as he entered the court. Belgium's Flemish and French Socialist parties have been badly damaged by the Agusta affair. Frank Vandembroucke, the Foreign Minister, was among those forced to resign. Both parties are both expected to suffer heavy losses in next Sunday's general election.

## Aids deaths in Italy increasing

Rome: Aids is becoming as big a killer in Italy as road accidents, the country's statistics institute, Istat, said yesterday.

About 4,370 Italians died from Aids last year compared with some 6,000 road deaths. "For young males aged between 18 and 29, Aids has become the second cause of death after road accidents, overtaking drugs," Istat said.

The number of deaths of women with Aids was much lower than for males, but Italy had the highest level in Europe of babies born with the HIV virus which causes Aids, Istat found. (Reuters)

## Canada bans Italian pasta

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

HARD on the heels of the Greenland halibut war with Spain, Canada is now going into battle with Italy over pasta.

The Canadian Wheat Board has slapped an embargo on large packages of Italian pasta coming into the country in retaliation to a subsidy of \$Can60 (£28) a tonne on pasta exported from Italy which went into effect on April 1. In addition, the European Union decided to allow only 300,000 tonnes of wheat to be imported into EU countries this year.

Roy McLaren, the Canadian Trade Minister, said Ottawa would not have restricted pasta imports from Italy if the Europeans were not subsidising their pasta exports. The pressure for the embargo came from the Canadian Pasta Manufacturers' Association and Canadian wheat farmers who are having difficulty selling their durum wheat to Canadian pasta makers.

The decision affects all packages of more than 1kg (2.2lb), which spares gourmet shops and Italian restaurants. However, Italian pasta distributors in Canada, wholesale grocers and some Italian restaurants are furious, not to mention pasta producers in Italy, who are threatening to ban all imports of Canadian wheat into the country. In a statement, they called the embargo discriminatory, arbitrary and illegal. Canadian pasta annually sells \$35 million of wheat to Italy, about half of which comes back to Canada as pasta. The Italians, however, sell 126,000 tonnes of pasta to Canada, worth \$22 million, representing 12 per cent of the Canadian market.

However, Italian pasta sales have tripled in Canada in the past three years, and it is this surge that has concerned domestic pasta manufacturers. Among the reasons is that Canadian-made pasta sells for \$Can2 per kg, while imported Italian pasta sells for \$Can1.20.

So far neither Canada nor Italy have shown any interest in backing down.

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Enmity proves mother of invention as warring factions construct DIY killing machines

## Balkan arsenals made ready for summer offensive

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE BALKANS are awash with ammunition, rockets, missiles, anti-tank weapons, assault rifles and some of the most extraordinary improvised Heath-Robinson killing machines, all ready for what could be a devastating new conflict this summer.

The armies in the three fighting zones — Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia — have all been rearming relentlessly over the winter months despite the United Nations embargo. The scene is now set for a potential battle that could see the Bosnian and Krajina Serbs forced to surrender more of the territory they seized at the beginning of this three-year war.

In all wars, improvisation has played an important role, both in terms of tactics and weapon systems. Even armies with the most sophisticated precision-guided weapons and the most highly skilled troops do not win wars by sticking rigidly to the training manual. But the conflicts in Croatia and Bosnia have provided a testbed for some of the weirdest array of improvised equipment ever seen on the modern battlefield.

The most bizarre is a hybrid rocket developed by the Bosnian Serbs which has been launched with lethal effect against the Bihac pocket in northwest Bosnia.

Launched from a crane-like structure, the weapon consists of four 120mm Russian BM21

rockets bracketed together and attached either to a 500lb aircraft bomb or a standard fuel air bomb, called FAB250. Tucked in with the rockets is a Sagger anti-tank guided weapon, whose electronics keep the whole system on the right trajectory.

At the back end of the weapon is a drag parachute which opens out to stabilise the weapon as the rocket motors cut out and the bomb drops to the target.

Peter Felstead, editor of a *Janet's Intelligence Review* newsletter, *Pointer*, said the aircraft bomb uses an impact fuse and the fuel air bomb, which explodes in mid-air

above the target, is linked to a barometric fuse which detonates the warhead at a set altitude.

Fuel air bombs were used by the Americans to devastating effect in the 1991 Gulf War to detonate minefields and clear out trenches.

According to United Nations observers, the Serbs' improvised rocket is so powerful that it has demolished whole apartment blocks inside Bihac. The home-made weapon has a range of about six miles. The Serbs were forced to construct a rail launcher on a huge gantry because they have no aircraft capable of delivering such a heavy weapon.

One of these hybrid monsters has apparently been recovered relatively undamaged by a UN observer who is an engineer. Initial reports suggest the weapon has been put together in a sophisticated fashion.

From early on in the war, the different factions learnt how to adapt other weapon systems to provide extra firepower. Serbs have used SAM2 surface-to-air missiles in a direct fire, ground-to-ground role and anti-aircraft weapons have been used in a similar way by all three warring factions.

Much of the weaponry deployed by the different factions is Russian, old and unreliable. In addition, particularly for the Bosnian government (BiH) forces, the scarcity of heavy guns has meant that their limited stocks have been over-used. BiH gun barrels are so

worn that the Muslims have been forced to shorten the range of most of their howitzers to try to achieve better accuracy. Howitzers capable of firing shells up to 12 miles have been adjusted to an operational range of three to six miles, according to UN military sources.

The oldest weapon spotted by UN observers since the conflict began was a Lewis gun which dates from before the First World War. It was seen in use by Croat militiamen at Vukovar, which was destroyed by a Serb siege in 1991.

However, not all the equipment dates from a past era.

The Orkan multiple rocket launcher, which was used by the Krajina Serbs against Zagreb last week and was developed jointly in the 1980s between the former Yugoslavia and Iraq, is also in the hands of the Croatian Army, the Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian government forces.

According to a detailed inventory of weapon systems in the Balkans, published by *Janet's Sentinel* earlier this year, Croatia has 12 of the 262mm Orkans in service, the Bosnian Serbs, five, and the Bosnian Government, six, although only two of the latter are in service. It is possible that with the Croats' rocket

fuel plant in Vitez and the BiH arms factory in Novi Travnik, both in central Bosnia, working again, an Orkan assembly line may have been constructed with parts smuggled from Iraq.

It is not known when the Krajina Serbs acquired their Orkan but with its ability to scatter anti-personnel sub-munitions, it proved to be an effective terror weapon for the residents of Zagreb.

Other more advanced weapons that have been brought into the conflict and pose a significant threat to the UN Protection Force peacekeepers as well as those involved in the fighting, include the American

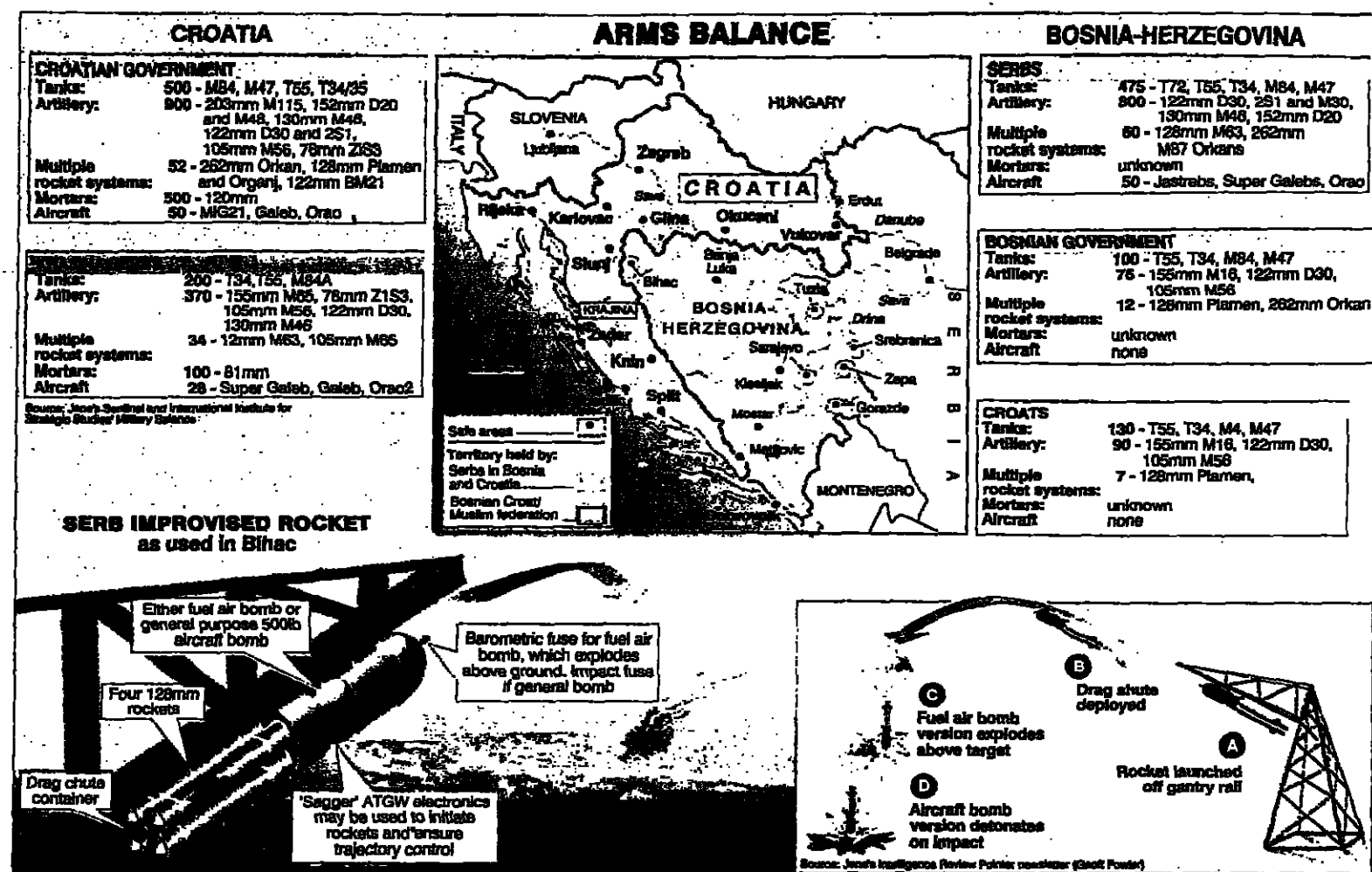
Stinger anti-aircraft missile, which has been acquired by the Croats, the Bosnian Serbs and the BiH; the German-designed Armbrust anti-tank rocket system, first spotted being used by the Croats in Bosnia; the Russian RPG22 anti-tank rocket seen in Croatia and Bosnia, and China's latest wire-guided missile, the Red Arrow 8, known to be in the hands of the BiH.

The largest amount of smuggled weaponry is destined for the Bosnian government forces. Thousands of tonnes of ammunition, assault rifles, grenade launchers and anti-tank missiles have been

delivered to BiH forces by air into Croatia and then on by road into Bosnia.

One of the most effective weapons systems throughout the war both in Croatia and in Bosnia has been the mortar, particularly the large 120mm version. The Croatian Army is believed to have about 500 120mm launchers.

There are no authoritative estimates of the number of 120mm mortars in Bosnia. However, UN observers have noted how clever all the factions are at concealing their heavy mortar positions with the use of camouflage, making it impossible for US satellites to pinpoint them.



## Serbs prefer destitution to Zagreb rule

FROM ANTHONY LOYD  
IN PAKRAC, CROATIA

IN AN embarrassing blow to Zagreb's showcase diplomatic initiative, the majority of Croatian Serbs remaining in western Slavonia appear certain to choose to live as refugees in Bosnia rather than integrate as Croat citizens.

Western Slavonia, seized from the

secessionist Croats three years ago in weeks of heavy fighting, was styled by the Serbs as part of the Serbian Republic of Krajina until last week's successful Croat offensive reclaimed the land as part of Croatia.

Up to 5,000 Serbs remain in the area, some as detainees awaiting investigation for possible war crimes, others on the run in the region's thick forests, but the

majority as the frightened inhabitants of a new country run by people they had fought to be free of in 1991.

Meanwhile, the United Nations, its original peace-keeping mandate in western Slavonia annulled by the Croat victory, has again been cast as an uneasy agent of population removal as it orchestrates the Serb exodus at the request of the Croat and the Serbian authorities.

## Bavarians protest at beer ban

**Bonn:** Thousands of angry, thirsty Bavarians marched through Munich yesterday in protest against a court ruling that a famous beer garden, the Waldwirtschaft, must close at 9.30pm because of noise problems, making a mockery of the annual Oktoberfest (Roger Boyes writes).

Senior politicians including Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, have joined the protest. Even Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, contrived to have an appointment in Munich yesterday. Although a wine drinker, Herr Kohl is said to be in sympathy with the protesters. Beer sales were banned for the protest.

## Mystery disease killing sardines

**Sydney:** Marine scientists are battling to identify a mystery illness that has left millions of sardines dead along the Australian coast (Vivienne Horner writes).

The latest finds were off Merimbula, New South Wales, but similar discoveries have been made on beaches in Albany, Western Australia. The fish die with their gills displaying unusual lesions that produce mucus, impairing the intake of oxygen and eventually causing death by suffocation.

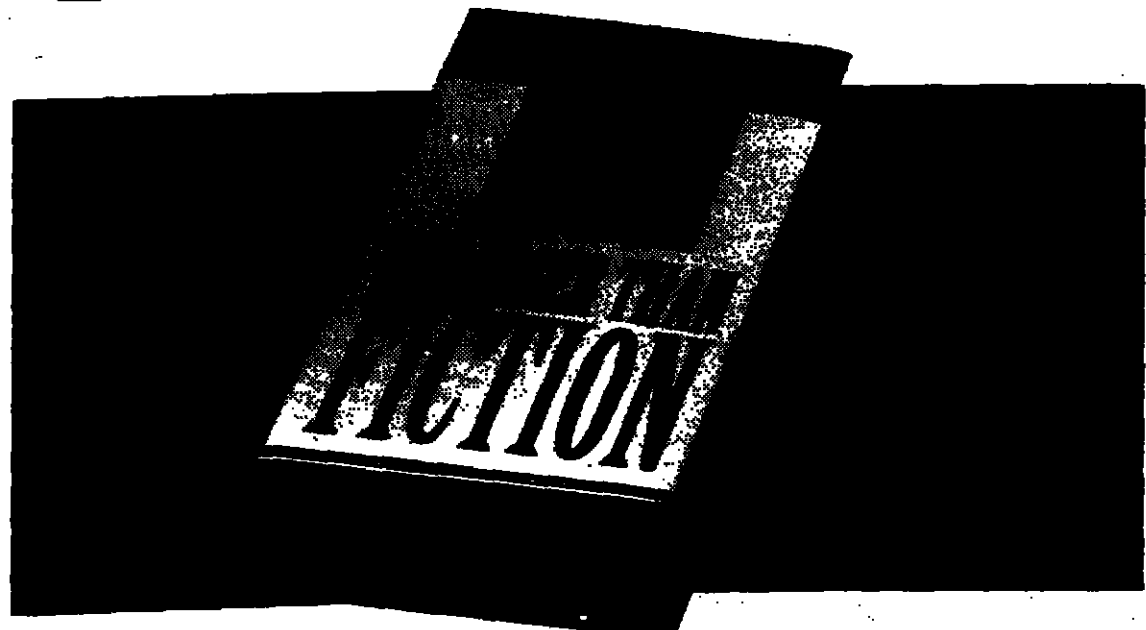
## Crackdown on vice in Tibet

**Peking:** China's crackdown on vice has reached Tibet, with 111 prostitutes and pimps being rounded up in a recent police blitz in Lhasa, the capital. Nearly 70 gamblers were also arrested and a hall where pornographic videos were shown was closed in a city-wide raid involving 250 police officers, the *Workers' Daily* reported. The alleged head of a gang forcing girls into prostitution was among those arrested. (AFP)

## Taiwan goes for museum record

**Taipei:** The world's biggest Guinness Book of Records museum is to open outside Taiwan's capital. The 4.8-acre indoor and outdoor display will be five times bigger than London's Guinness museum, and will show more than 100 items from the *Book of Records*, including full-scale models of the world's tallest man, smallest bicycle, longest car and biggest cake. (Reuters)

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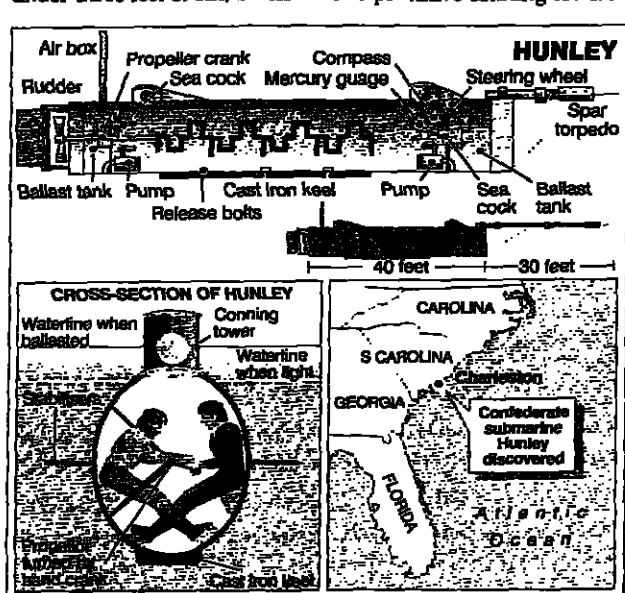
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# US Civil War sub found intact off coast of Carolina

By IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND ANJANA AHUJA

AMERICAN underwater explorers have discovered a Civil War hulk that 131 years ago became the first submarine in history to sink another ship.

The ill-fated Confederate submarine *Hunley* was found intact in 18ft of water, two and a half miles off Charleston, South Carolina. It was buried under three feet of silt, barnacles and coral. The search was a joint effort by Clive Cussler, author of the novel *Raise the Titanic*, and a team from the University of South Carolina.



"This is the single most important artifact in the history of submarine warfare," said Mark Newell, an archaeologist from the university.

Mr Cussler said yesterday that the encrusted iron shell was intact and could easily be raised to confirm its identity and perhaps solve the mystery of why it sank. The *Hunley*'s final voyage was on the night of February 17, 1864, when it slipped out of Charleston harbour carrying 100lb of gunpowder on the tip of a 20ft wooden spar attached to its bow.

This crude torpedo was rammed into the stern of the Union frigate *USS Housatonic*. Then the *Hunley* backed away and triggered the charge with a rope. The frigate, part of a Union blockade of Confederate ports, sank within five minutes and its crew of five were drowned.

However, the hatch of the *Hunley* was still open, and a shock wave resulting from the explosion sank the submarine. But the submarine was discovered one and a half miles from where the *Housatonic* went down, suggesting that it took some time to sink. Its crew of



Clive Cussler with a replica of the *Hunley*, the 131-year-old submarine he found off the South Carolina coast

nine drowned. It was a dramatic finale for a submarine which during trials had sunk three times with the total loss of 30 lives, including Horace Hunley, its designer and builder.

It was to be another 50 years, with the advent of German U-boats in the First World War, before any other vessel fell victim to a submarine.

The *Hunley* was considered so unseaworthy and was so susceptible to swamping in rough weather, or even from the swell of a passing boat,

that it was known locally as the "peripatetic coffin". The *Hunley* started life as a boiler, 25ft long. To convert it into a submarine, Hunley turned the boiler on its side, added diving wings and water-ballast tanks for raising and lowering it, and installed a propeller to be driven manually by eight crewmen hunched over a crankshaft that ran the length of the interior.

As if all this was not terrifying enough, the only air supply was through a pipe from the surface. Illumination was by candlelight, which

doubled as a warning system if the oxygen gave out. There was no periscope.

The first navigable submarine is generally conceded to have been built around 1620 by Cornelius Drebbel, a Dutchman. It was basically a rowing boat completely covered in leather with oars poking through flexible seals on either side. The first combat submarine was an egg-shaped craft invented by an American, David Bushnell, in 1776. His attempt to blow up a British warship in New York harbour failed, but his principles

were used successfully by Robert Fulton for a submarine on the Seine in 1800.

Mr Cussler and Dr Newell said the exact location of their find will not be made public for fear of attracting souvenir hunters. They will try to persuade local authorities to pay for salvaging the *Hunley* so that it can go on display.

Mr Cussler seeks no personal profit from the venture but he does feel vindicated after the long search. "I wish I had a nickel for every time somebody told me I was wasting my time," he said.

## Protests by Cuban exiles divide Miami

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

CUBAN-AMERICAN exiles, angered by the Administration's new policy of repatriating Cuban asylum seekers picked up at sea, have launched a campaign of civil disobedience that has divided Miami.

Organisers of Operation Rescue hope to sway public opinion. But they may only be turning it against them. The protests come as anti-immigration sentiment is rising. Florida opinion polls indicate increasing support for tough anti-immigration measures, modelled on California's Proposition 187, which would deny public services to illegal immigrants.

For three decades Cuban "rafters" rescued at sea were allowed to enter with privileged immigration status as victims of President Castro's communist rule. That ended last week when the White House announced the new policy. Under this policy, more than 20,000 Cuban refugees who fled the island last summer, only to end up in American camps at Guantanamo Bay naval base, would be admitted to the United States. But in future, all others would be sent back to Cuba.

A group of 13 rafters were picked up late last week by the US Coast Guard. On Tuesday they became the first to be repatriated to the island.

Many of Miami's one million Cuban exiles who came to the United States as rafters or seeking asylum are outraged. Late last week exile groups joined forces to challenge the policy through civil disobedience. For five days they have created chaos, blocking city streets and motorways in dozens of impromptu, hit-and-run protests, as well as holding a brief strike on Wednesday.

Ramón Sánchez, one of the protest leaders, apologised to residents for the inconvenience. But in the same breath he said that the protests were "just a little sample" of what Cuban Americans can do to disrupt Miami.

The protests seem to have backfired. Irrate callers to the city's English-language radio and television stations have complained that Cuban exiles are ungrateful after 36 years of American hospitality. Spanish-language stations are hitting back, accusing critics of racism.

In the midst of the protests an opinion poll indicated 73 per cent support in Florida for a ban on illegal immigrants receiving non-emergency government services, including health and education. The proposal is likely to prompt a referendum next year.

## Move to exhume Lincoln's assassin

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

DESCENDANTS of the actor who shot dead Abraham Lincoln are asking a court for permission to dig up his grave to test one of America's oldest conspiracy theories.

A great-grandniece and a third cousin of John Wilkes Booth, who killed President Lincoln in a Washington theatre in 1865, want to confirm that the body under Booth's headstone in Baltimore is in fact his.

Ever since the 16th New York Cavalry trapped and shot a suspect in a burning barn in Virginia 12 days after Lincoln's assassination, rumours have circulated that the man was not Booth.

A popular theory holds that



Booth broke his leg after the shooting

Booth, a Confederate agent in the American Civil War, escaped and went on to live another 38 years in Mississippi, Texas and the Oklahoma

Territory before committing suicide. Although most historians dismiss allegations of a 130-year government cover-up as fantasy, the Smithsonian Institution and two other museums have joined the family in seeking permission to exhume the body.

They hope to be able to determine the identity of the corpse by checking for Booth's known physical characteristics, such as the fractured left leg the assassin suffered when he jumped onto the stage after he had shot Lincoln, the sixteenth US President. Lincoln had been re-elected in 1864 with victory for the North in sight, having announced freedom for slaves the previous year.

The conspiracy theory was extensively explained in a

1907 book, *The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes Booth*, by Finis Bates, a lawyer. He claimed a man named John St Helen confessed to him in 1877 that he was really Booth. Bates believed that Mr St Helen later took the identity David George and committed suicide in Enid, Oklahoma, in 1903.

Mr George's body was mummified and later sold to a carnival, which exhibited it around the country as the real John Wilkes Booth. It has now disappeared.

A total of 25 direct descendants of Booth are supporting the request to exhume his body, as well as three women who claim to be descended from a child he bore a year after his supposed death.

## Menem's rival closes gap on eve of Argentine poll

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINTI IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINIANS will vote tomorrow to decide whether Carlos Menem merits another term as President, or whether to opt for a change.

"It's a decision between backing economic reforms that have given us economic stability or choosing an alternative which promises to ease the pain of austerity measures," said Felipe Noguera, a political analyst.

Predictions published by opinion pollsters have varied. They have indicated that Señor Menem is likely to gain the 45 per cent of the vote he needs to avoid a second, deciding round of polls. Argentine law requires that a candidate has to take 45 per cent, or alternatively 40 per cent of the vote with a 10 per cent lead over the nearest opponent, in order to win in the first round.

But opinion polls have also shown that the Centre Left coalition candidate, José Octavio Bordón, has managed to win over last-minute support from voters who feel that Señor Menem's free market reforms have included too

many harsh austerity measures. "It is not an unlikely possibility that Bordón will force the election into a second round," one pollster said.

Señor Bordón, 50, ended his election campaign yesterday by drumming up support in the Buenos Aires, the capital. Señor Menem's power base. "Economic reforms will stay in place but we will have to focus on job creation and the desperate need to get non-existent health and education facilities to large, remote parts of the country," Señor Bordón said.

Meanwhile, President Menem, 64, was busy appearing on the main television talk shows to warn voters of an "economic debacle" if the opposition were to come to power. "There would be a return to chaos and unstable currency," Señor Menem said.

He is credited with turning around the economy. When he took office in 1989, hyperinflation raged and the State was close to bankruptcy. His Finance Minister, Domingo Cavallo, introduced successful anti-inflationary policies and

launched a privatisation plan that has helped to reduce the country's foreign debt.

The return of foreign investment to Argentina and a campaign to spruce up the wide avenues, grand opera houses and shopping centres of Buenos Aires have helped to boost national morale. Señor Menem has also worked hard to please the international community by establishing close links with the United States and restoring diplomatic relations with Britain after the Falklands War.

A majority of the 22 million voters are likely to opt for a continuation of economic reforms. But growing fears that a financial crisis, triggered by the so-called "tequila effect" of the Mexican devaluation, is just around the corner, and the mounting discontent over austerity measures may steal votes away from President Menem.

Voters tomorrow will, in addition to choosing the next President and Vice-President, elect half the chamber of Congress and several thousand local provincial officials.

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# Britons are urged to avoid Zaire as virus fears mount

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITONS were strongly advised yesterday to stay away from Zaire, where an outbreak of Ebola disease has caused rising panic.

As the capital, Kinshasa, tried to cut itself off from virus-infected areas, it became clear that the death toll is lower than first thought and international health experts believe the sickness can soon be brought under control.

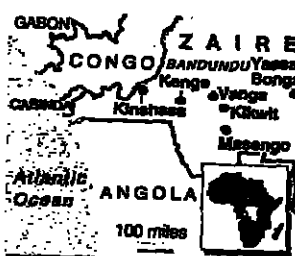
It was reported on Thursday that 170 people had died of the fever, but the World Health Organisation yesterday put the confirmed number of deaths at 48 out of a total of 65 confirmed cases, with the rest now believed to have fallen victim to a number of other diseases with similar symptoms, including a form of dysentery known as red diarrhoea.

In London, the Foreign Office said: "British nationals are strongly advised not to visit or transit Zaire. The Kikwit area of Bandundu province is currently quarantined following an outbreak of Ebola, an extremely dangerous virus, which could spread to other areas."

The health warning reinforces an earlier warning to Britons to avoid the country because of lawlessness following the ethnic killing in Rwanda and Burundi, which border Zaire.

In Kinshasa, the Government closed air, land and river routes to the east of the country to try to protect its largely impoverished residents from the Ebola virus.

Health officials worldwide expressed some optimism, however, that the virus, which kills by destroying the internal organs amid catastrophic haemorrhaging, could be confined to the Kikwit region.



where it was first reported. Ebola cases have been reported at Massango, about 70 miles from Kikwit and Yassa Bonga, 155 miles away, but these are believed to be victims who have been transferred to hospitals there from Kikwit.

Medical experts were also investigating reports of cases at Kenge, 130 miles east of Kinshasa, and one unconfirmed case in the town of Vanga, north of Kikwit.

No incidence of Ebola fever has been officially reported in Kinshasa, but the city lacks the resources to cope with it should an outbreak occur.

Families live in crowded shanty accommodation in many districts of the capital. "I don't think there will be a large outbreak," said Eric Verschuere of Médecins Sans Frontières, which has a medical team in Kikwit where the outbreak was diagnosed a week ago.

In addition to the Ebola virus, doctors have diagnosed a form of dysentery caused by the bacteria shigella and commonly known as red diarrhoea because of the heavy bleeding involved. Shigella, transmitted through unhygienic living conditions and unclean drinking water, is curable with antibiotics.

Health workers trying to contain the Ebola outbreak face huge difficulties working in the poverty-stricken Kikwit region. "It is not very encouraging," said Richard Leclair of the WHO in Geneva.

There is very poor hygiene and we are bringing in barrier nursing facilities — gloves, gowns, masks and syringes." WHO's headquarters in Geneva is recommending that no special measures be instituted regarding airline passengers or crew arriving in other countries from Zaire.

In advice aimed at health authorities and airlines, the organisation said: "Persons with the Ebola virus become infectious to others only when they are extremely ill and are already haemorrhaging. It is highly unlikely that such persons would try to travel on an international flight, and unlikely that they would be permitted to board if they did try."

The nearby shrine, burial place of the patron saint of Kashmir, is a pile of ashes, as is the mosque itself. A mass of razed wooden houses attest to the scale of disaster for a poor farming community that became embroiled in the six-year civil war when separatist militants set up home here last November.

The army has recovered five bodies of gunmen, all bullet-ridden and some badly burnt. Brigadier Mohinder Singh, the commander in charge of operations, said ten to 12 gunmen were left in the town and 23 had been killed. Some had escaped.

He believed that all but a few were Pakistanis, based on information gleaned from captured diaries and intercepted

radio messages. Two soldiers had died. He expected the last of the militants to be "flushed out" within days.

As he spoke on a ridge 300ft above the town, there were three explosions several minutes apart. He claimed that the militants were using home-made bombs to keep the town burning.

Bomb-making facilities using fertiliser and other materials had been found. He insisted that the army had not entered the town until after the shrine had caught fire.

India is pulling out the stops to put across its side of events. It always loses the war of words in Kashmir, and the destruction of the shrine, regardless of who did it, is another propaganda defeat for the Delhi authorities.

Tensions in the valley have escalated, the mood of Muslims has hardened, early elections in the state are now all but impossible, and Pakistan is exploiting India's discomfiture with customary determination. Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister, called it an act of wanton destruction that showed the lengths to which India would

go to subjugate Kashmiri people. In recent days Pakistani television has been running lengthy programmes depicting India as the villain of the Kashmiri crisis.

There is too much misinformation on all sides to unravel the precise chain of events in Char-i-Sharif.

However, it does not ultimately matter whether the army has been falsely accused of arson: it matters only that the 3.5 million Muslims of the Kashmir Valley believe soldiers were responsible, further alienating them from India.

Separatist militants have lost much of their popular support, but hatred for what India has done, or is perceived to have done, prevents Delhi from exploiting the hunger for peace.

The army may have torched the town to flush out the gunmen. The gunmen may have done it to inflame tensions, aware that the army would be blamed.

The presence of many Pakistanis in the town belies Islamabad's claim that it does not materially support the uprising, which will sully its reputation internationally.

BOWING to intensifying international condemnation, Israel announced yesterday that it was abandoning its plan to seize Vatican-owned land in the occupied West Bank to build a new road to the sprawling Jewish settlement town of Har Gilo, near Bethlehem.

The decision, made public by Shimon Shetret, the Religious Affairs Minister, was one of the most dramatic by the Labour Government since it took power in 1992. His announcement came only hours before the UN Security Council was to begin debating an emergency Arab motion to prevent Israel confiscating 133 acres of mainly Palestinian land in annexed east Jerusalem.

The Israeli scheme to take the Vatican land, part of the grounds of the Cremsan Monastery, had threatened diplomatic links with the Vatican that were established only last year. The plan also threatened to provoke a head-on clash between Israel and the wider Christian world at a time when Israeli land policies are endangering the peace process with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Yediot Ahronot, the Tel Aviv daily, quoted a senior churchman in the Roman Catholic monastery as warning Mr Shetret: "If the [Vatican] lands are expropriated, it will cause the eruption of an international scandal that will draw in the entire Christian world." Within hours of publication, an apologetic Mr Shetret was assuring Israel Radio that plans to confiscate the land had reached only "the initial stage" and had now been scrapped. The road from Har Gilo to Jerusalem will be built without the need to expropriate any land from the Cremsan Monastery.

Leading article, page 19



An image of Siva, the Hindu god of reproduction and destruction, adorns the room of a building owned by the Japanese Aum Shinrikyo sect. The sect has been accused of being involved in the nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway on March 20. A Japanese company, has been

penetrating sect's secrets gun selling a gas mask, left, which is small enough to fit in a handbag, MSA Japan said that the disposable mask should provide short-term

protection against sarin, the gas that killed 12 people and injured 5,500. The 10oz device comprises a nylon bag and filter tube. It will also protect against cyanide — used in an attempted attack on a Tokyo railway station on May 5 — and phosgene, a First World War gas. (AFP)

## Troops hunt last rebels in ruined Kashmir town

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN CHAR-I-SHARIF

EXPLOSIONS and fire ravaged the remains of the Kashmir pilgrim town of Char-i-Sharif as darkness fell last night.

With two-thirds of the houses destroyed, soldiers were on the streets reportedly engaged in hand-to-hand fighting to kill the last of the separatist gunmen who had taken over the 14th-century mosque.

The nearby shrine, burial place of the patron saint of Kashmir, is a pile of ashes, as is the mosque itself. A mass of razed wooden houses attest to the scale of disaster for a poor farming community that became embroiled in the six-year civil war when separatist militants set up home here last November.

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Leading article, page 19

## Israelis call off Vatican land grab

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

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Leading article, page 19

## Rwanda urged to repent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, is today expected to warn the people of Rwanda that there can be no true peace until people repent and say: "I am sorry" (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Dr Carey, preaching at Amahoro national stadium in Rwanda midway during his week-long visit, will urge "repentance for murder committed in the name of tribalism".

In his address, he speaks of "a carefully prepared and executed plan to destroy a people, of trusted civic leaders not just standing by, but in some cases assisting or even leading the killing".

Dr Carey is also expected to urge Rwandans "to start on a process of forgiveness".

## Bankruptcy file enforced

New York: Rockefeller Centre, the landmark New York office complex built at the height of the Depression by one of the world's richest families, has been forced by its Japanese owners, Mitsubishi, to file for bankruptcy (James Bone writes).

The group of 12 art deco buildings in Manhattan is 80 per cent owned by the Japanese giant, with the balance in Rockefeller family hands. Mitsubishi says rents at the centre do not cover the payments on the mortgage, and filed for bankruptcy protection from its creditors.



Rockefeller Centre art deco landmark

## Bodies retrieved from gold mine

Johannesburg: As rescue workers battled in deteriorating conditions yesterday to recover the bodies of gold-miners killed in one of South Africa's worst mining disasters, the Government promised to speed up efforts to make the industry safer (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The bodies of 56 of the 105 miners who are believed to have been trapped in a lift cage sent crashing deep underground by a runaway train had been brought to the surface.

Banda wants to die at home

Harare: Dr Hastings Banda, the former President of Malawi, has shooed away a South African neurologist sent to assess his ability to stand trial for murder, and is insisting on being left alone to die at home (Jan Rasch writes).

His trial was adjourned for the presiding judge to consider a request by the State's lawyers for Dr Banda to be ordered to hospital for an examination.

## Firm offers special bedding

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRITISH company is offering to help World Health Organisation efforts in Zaire by supplying disposable bedding designed to prevent the spread of infection.

Many of the known cases are health workers, including five nuns, three of whom have died. Christopher Barrow, of Blanket Cover, based in Tonbridge, Kent, says that his unique design of bedding for barrier nursing could help to contain the infection.

It consists of an undersheet, an oversheet and a pillow case made of a polymer bonded to a soft, paper-based material. The soft material can absorb ten times its own weight of liquid while the polymer prevents it reaching the mattress beneath.

Between the two is a reflective layer which keeps the patient warm in cold climates, or reflects heat away at high temperatures. The materials can also be made up into a sleeping bag if required.

Each set of bedding costs £5. It soaks up infected fluids from the body and when used is burnt to destroy the virus. "There is no washing, no drying, and no ironing," Mr Barrow says. "If the patient should die, then it also serves as a bodybag. You can simply bury the body still in its bedding and it will increase the speed of decay, producing enough heat to destroy the organism."

The system has been used by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and for treating AIDS patients. The bedding sets are very light, weighing less than six ounces each, making it easy to fly them to emergencies such as that in Zaire.

The film is the most expensive made, with costs expected to reach \$180 million (£115 million), roughly double the original estimate. Even Stephen Spielberg's Jurassic Park cost just \$60 million to make. Filmed principally on location in the Pacific Ocean off Hawaii, *Waterworld* began production in June last year, but with a summer release date looming the film is still unfinished.

Set in a soggy, futuristic world engulfed by the melting of the polar ice caps, *Waterworld* rapidly turned into a logistical horror story: the threat of hurricanes and tidal waves, seasickness among the actors and film support staff and Costner's

## Ocean epic threatens to swamp Costner's career

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

KEVIN COSTNER's forthcoming film *Waterworld* was intended to be neither a comedy nor a disaster movie, but has turned out to be both.

Three months before it is due to open, this epic tale of the ocean starring Costner as a mutant amphibious Ancient Mariner — a sort of muscular merman with gills and stubble — is being described as the greatest damp squib in film history, the "Atlantis of Hollywood" destined to disappear without trace, perhaps taking Costner and his once-glittering career with it.

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Set in a soggy, futuristic world engulfed by the melting of the polar ice caps, *Waterworld* rapidly turned into a logistical horror story: the threat of hurricanes and tidal waves, seasickness among the actors and film support staff and Costner's

much publicised divorce all helped to delay production as costs mounted.

In January, one part of the set representing a slave colony sank in the harbour of Hawaii's Big Island. Then it sank again. A stuntman came close to death after he got the bends. Costner's receding hairline appeared to be visibly retreating.

The latest calamity struck last week when Kevin Reynolds, the film's director, abruptly resigned in a huff, apparently after a feud with his star, Costner, who is also the film's producer, is said to have insisted that his role was not heroic enough, but then it is hard to seem glamorous

when you are fighting for oxygen through plastic gills and tottering around a watery stage on webbed feet.

In the end *Waterworld* may be less the victim of natural forces, bad luck and personality clashes than something altogether closer to Hollywood's cruel heart: gossip. No sooner had filming begun than the industry scented blood in the water. Costner, despite a reputation as the most bankable actor of the 1990s, has produced a string of disappointments over the past few years, including *Wyatt Earp* and *The War*.

The critics pounced, without having seen a single frame of the film. Some compared *Waterworld* to *Cleopatra*, the 1963 epic failure which almost crippled Twentieth Century Fox, or *Heaven's Gate*, the celebrated United Artists flop. *Waterworld* became "Kevin's Gate" and observers speculated that the hideously expensive film might even scupper Universal Pictures and its parent company, MCA.

The sniping became so virulent that David Twohy, the *Waterworld* scriptwriter, published an open letter in the trade press, saying: "Just shut the hell up until the movie comes out. When it does, go see it. Then you can decide." Instantly, the carping redoubled.



Costner in a scene from *Waterworld*

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# Don't play dirty with Keynes

Daniel Johnson deplores the sully of a great reputation

A WEEK ago, we celebrated the end of the greatest of all wars. But world wars do not really end overnight. The horrors of the Second World War — migrations, ethnic cleansing, destruction and expropriation on a vast scale — continued in Europe well after the German surrender. The same had happened after the First World War.

Wars begin by simplification and end in confusion. The simplifications repeat themselves, but the confusion never does. From the different confusions in which both world wars ended, a paradox emerges. At Yalta and Potsdam the Allies imposed a harsher peace than Versailles, leaving Germany divided. Yet it was Versailles, not 1945, that bequeathed a sense of injustice which in due course poisoned the Weimar Republic and led to a second war. Why?

After 1918, Germany was not occupied (except the Rhineland and, briefly, the Ruhr) or divided, and lost only a few provinces. Its leaders were not put on trial, imprisoned or executed; only the Kaiser was exiled. It was left to settle its own constitution. It retained a small army which was to become the nucleus of Hitler's Wehrmacht. But there was the myth of the "Carthaginian peace", the reparations. Not much was ever paid; the mortification was in the mind.

In 1945, the Western powers were eager to learn from the mistakes they had made in 1918. Hence the Western zones of Germany suffered comparatively little, at any rate after the famine of 1945-46 — which, though serious, was not, like that of 1918-20, the result of an Allied blockade.

The Russians had no such qualms about extracting reparations. The Reich lost a third of its territory. Most of the Allied leaders in 1945 were old enough to remember Versailles. Only one figure, however, could claim to have influenced both peace settlements, and he was not a politician. John Maynard Keynes had only a year to live when the war ended; but it is not too much to say that he had by then become, as Auden said of Freud, "a whole climate of opinion". His powerful polemic against Versailles, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1919), had persuaded the British (too late) of the folly of reparations. His analysis of the 1919 peace ensured that the consequences of the 1945 peace were very different. In 1944 at Bretton Woods, Keynes set about creating a postwar financial system that would endure. Marshall Aid, which helped to save Western Europe from returning to the instability of the interwar years, was a monument to his insight: democracy needs prosperity.

But Keynes's legacy has latterly come under ever closer scrutiny — in particular, his role at the Versailles negotiations, where he was the Treasury's adviser. According to a recent article in *The Spectator*, Keynes was a pernicious influence both on the Germans, whom he encouraged to pur-

sue policies that led to the hyperinflation of 1923, but also on the British: "Keynes's attack on the Versailles treaty without question contributed to that guilty feeling of having wronged Germany which so inhibited British diplomacy in the 1930s." *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* is said to have been directly inspired by the Hamburg bankers who represented Germany at Versailles. Most damagingly, Keynes's motives are impugned: his critique of the treaty "owed as much to his homosexuality as to his Germanophilia".

The author of this hatchet-job is an Oxford don, Niall Ferguson. His article was billed by the magazine as "an extract from his new book", *Paper and Iron: Hamburg business and German politics in the era of inflation, 1917-1927* (Cambridge University Press, £45). Anyone who reads this scholarly volume will see that the *Spectator* article is not an extract at all, nor even an adumbration of this well-argued book.

At the heart of Ferguson's quarrel with Keynes (which is also a quarrel with his biographer, Robert Skidelsky) is *Dr Melchior: a Defeated Enemy*, the remarkable sketch of the peace talks which Keynes read to the Bloomsbury Memoir Club in 1920. Carl Melchior, a Jewish banker, was a member of the German delegation at Versailles, and later became Keynes's best German friend.

In his book, Ferguson offers a balanced view of their relationship: "It may be that [Keynes's] subsequent declaration that he 'got to love' Melchior during the long negotiations at Trier obliquely alluded to a sexual attraction, but it seems more probable that Keynes was simply captivated by the sound of his own pessimism being articulated by another." But in the *Spectator* piece, Ferguson uses Keynes's memoir "to infer... some kind of sexual attraction. After all, this was a time in Keynes's life of considerable homosexual activity." Ferguson admits that he has no evidence of an affair. "Yet there is no question that the attraction Keynes felt for him strongly influenced his judgment," Skidelsky himself suggests that their correspondence, not all of which survives, amounted to an exchange of confidential intelligence. The agitation Keynes felt when meeting Melchior stemmed not from sexual undercurrents, but from a mutual awareness that they had discovered of their clandestine talks would have caused uproar.

So much for homosexuality. Was it so discreditable that Keynes was "Germanophile" in 1919? Surely, it required courage to warn the British that humiliating the Germans was not the way to safeguard the Weimar Republic. *Paper and Iron* is a major contribution to German history. A pity, then, that Niall Ferguson should have vulgarised his own insights, perhaps out of a mischievous desire to debunk Skidelsky — the man to whom we owe most of what we know about Keynes.

Keynes's agitation did not stem from sexual feelings

The Conservatives, says Julian Critchley, would be barely recognisable after a heavy general election defeat

What sort of Tory party would survive a defeat on the scale of 1906? Political commentators were speculating in the wake of last week's local elections when the Conservatives lost more than 2,000 seats in England (to say nothing of Scotland and Wales) that the party would end up in opposition with some 144 seats in Parliament. Not as bad as the Canadian experience, in which Ted Heath and probably David Mellor would be the only survivors, but bad enough. What sort of party would the Tories become?

Many of our older Members will retire at the election, Tories like John Biffen and Cranley Owers. Members with a highly developed sense of party, and nurtured, as I was, on the sentimental/nostalgic view of Europe as expressed by Harold Macmillan and Edward Heath. Their places are likely to be taken by ambitious young right-wingers, happily married and with two children, whose formative political years might well have been spent among the Tartan Ale type of Young Conservative, the sort of whom even Norman Tebbit disapproved.

John Major sits upon the safest Tory seat in England, but I doubt if he would survive long as Leader of the Opposition. Michael Heseltine would be unlikely to stand for re-election, preferring to continue his task of reforestation on the borders of

# After the landslide: the tattered Tories

Oxfordshire and Northampton. Ken Clarke, were he to scrape home at Nottingham, would be held by a fresh generation of garageistes and estate agents to be the architect of our defeat, and would be denied the leadership. That leaves Michael Portillo ("El Sid") to impose his vision of an island Britain on what was once a great internationalist party.

Since the 1992 general election, when to everyone's surprise John Major, with a little help from John Smith, actually won, the Prime Minister, once "at the heart of Europe" has been forced by the likes of Teresa Gorman, the Queen of Essex, and by wider, less stridently expressed opinion within the party, to move steadily in the direction of the Euro-sceptics, the new nationalists for whom V.E. Day stood only for victory. Hugh Dykes, Ian Taylor and Peter Luff would strive to keep alive the sacred flame, but the general acceptance that "Europe" was a

principal British interest will have been almost worn away. The end of the Cold War and anxieties about Spanish imperialism over fish have made a united Europe appear to be of only minor importance.

The question remains: will a Europhobic Conservative Party return to embrace what is left of "Thatcherism" or will it remain largely a party of "One Nation", a philosophy that owes its origins to Disraeli and its success to the 1950 intake of Tory MPs? Will Rab Butler be spinning in his grave?

Those Tory MPs who have gone as far as College Green to wonder aloud whether a period of opposition would be of long-term advantage to the Tory party are barking mad. Only the years in opposition between Churchill's defeat in 1945 and his return to power in 1951, were particularly fruitful. Rab Butler, Peter Thorneycroft, David Eccles, Edward Heath and Reggie Maudling per-

suaded the party to stand by the wartime agreements reached with Labour in the coalition Government, and by so doing erased the memories of unemployment, appeasement and prewar poverty. The result was the election of the 1950 intake, universally regarded as the best since the war. (A rival might be the seventy-niners, the fifty-niners being generally regarded as the worst.)

No Tory can look back to the period of opposition under Balfour and Bonar Law with anything but embarrassment. We were split in two by protection versus free trade, and only permitted a share of power in 1916 by the Kaiser. 1964 to 1970 was a dull period during which "Selsdon Man" made a brief appearance on stage, and Lord Home was bundled out of office. Party leaders rarely survive defeat.

1974 to 1979 saw the overthrow of Ted Heath by the executive of the 1922

Committee led by Edward du Cann, helped by a disillusioned right wing who had stumbled across the young Margaret Thatcher after Sir Keith Joseph made a remarkably foolish speech in Brum where he attacked the working class for bearing so many stupid children. Thus Margaret came to power, and a decade or more of disharmony (and some achievement) accompanied her capricious and arrogant rule. It took a palace revolution to get rid of her.

Believing itself to be the natural party of government, in opposition the Tory party is usually to be seen at its worst. It becomes fractious, denies much of what is good of its past, and tends to turn to false prophets. The party under Michael Portillo could become unrecognisable to those of us who have served it since the end of the war. It would become étatiste, hostile to further European integration, tempted even to quit the Union, reliant upon an increasingly disinterested United States, and obsessed by the small change of politics like the condition of unmarried mothers, repatriation and welfare benefit. Vouchers would once again come to the fore, and the party's attitudes and policies would pass from the saloon to the public bar. We have everything to gain in 1996, and, by the same token, everything to lose.

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot.

# Who can tame the Thames?

London's tough old river will still be flowing when all those who have tried to exploit or prettify it are forgotten

Old Father Gummer declared this week that he intended to "do something" about the Thames in London. The time had come, he said, "to break new ground... to realise the river's potential and rich resources." Old Father Thames winked. For centuries he has floated politicians up on the spring tide to Westminster, along with the offal of the Fleet, granted them a couple of burps and then spat them downstream to Dartford and the sea. What was new this time?

"How we neglect the Thames" is the hardest perennial of London journalism. When many years ago I was sent to write an article on this theme, I took it all too seriously. I boarded ship from the dock at Twickenham, from where you could

Hovercraft from Dumbarton and ran it as a water bus. Both failed. At the time of our tour, the Greater London Council was spending £7 million of ratepayers' money on hydrofoil buses. They went as fast as had the old Festival of Britain water buses in 1951. Goodness knows where they are now. Yet Caisley loved the Thames so much he offered to hand all his boats over to any public authority that would only keep them running.

Since then Thames initiatives have come and gone with the tide. The London Docklands rebuilding revived the Riverbus. Developers were asked, indeed compelled, to sponsor new commuter launches. The Riverbuses lost money and collapsed in 1993. Just one still runs to Canary Wharf. The 18th-century watermen were right when they fought the

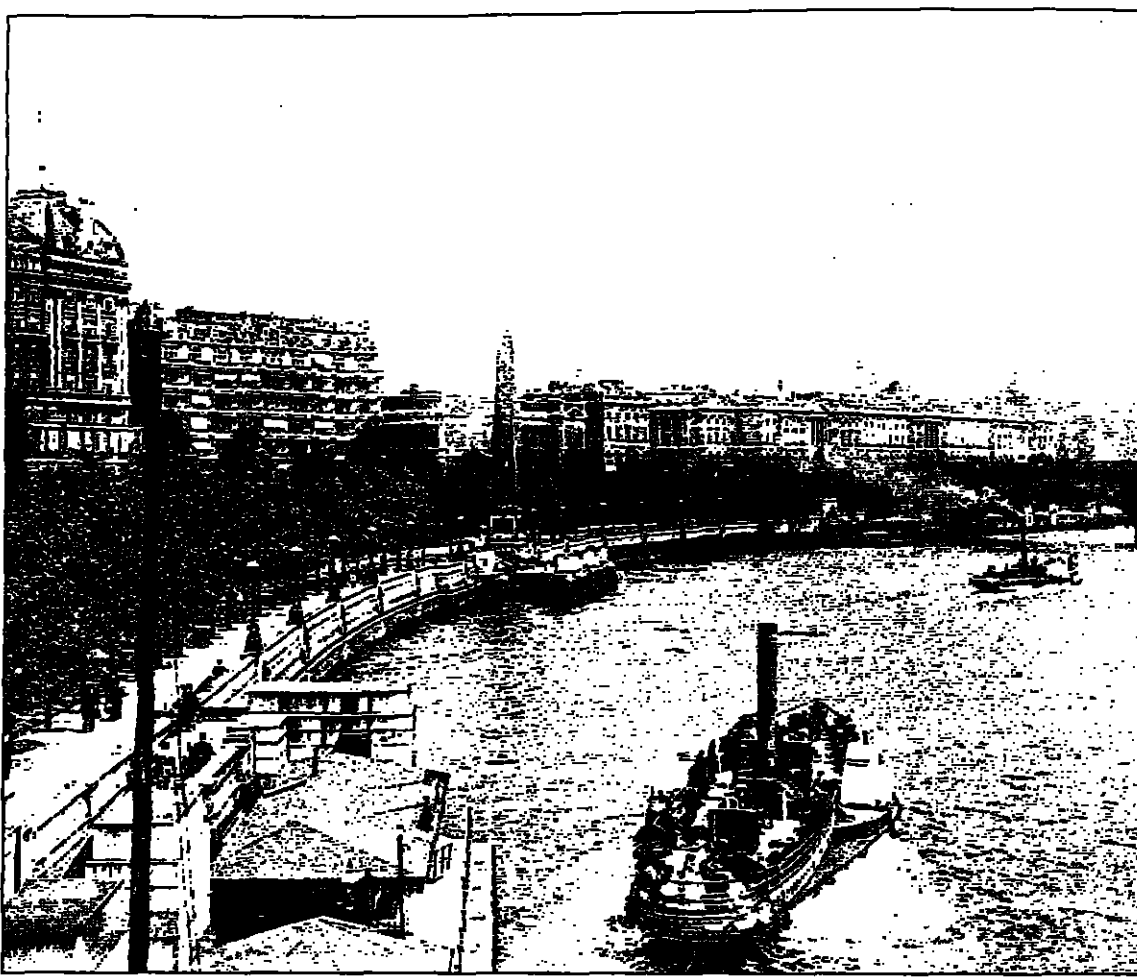
Simon Jenkins

building of every road crossing from London Bridge to Richmond. Each bridge, road and embankment was death to their business. If you built a bridge today from San Marco to the Salute and a road along the Grand

Canal, you would say goodbye to the gondoliers and the vaporet. As for the long-for boom in leisure cruising through London, I recall Caisley saying, with the rain dripping from his cap, "you must be joking."

Doing something with the Thames depends mostly on doing something on the Thames, on its role as a highway. As long as the latter is hopeless, the former seems wishful thinking. Transport on the Thames is like Shakespeare in the park or the Fort William sleeper. We want river boats to exist not because large numbers clamour for them, but because we are comforted to know they are there — and one day we might change our mind and need them. The Thames is London's one natural feature. The capital has none of New York's islands, Rome's hills or Cape Town's mountain, just this curious serpentine ditch. Surely someone can put it to good account.

The latest proposals from the successor to the Greater London Council, the Government Office for London, rehearse familiar arguments against radical change. The river cannot be made non-tidal and thus "recreational" by raising the barrage. This would impede river



The Embankment on Hungerford Bridge in 1902. Paddle steamers were popular; the later Riverbuses were not

traffic, deter wildfowl, inundate cellars and increase silting and pollution. The Thames is invisible from most embankments and bridges because of flood-resistant parapets. Nor can it be turned into a Seine-like gallery of architecture since almost every prospect is marred by a century of startling ugliness. (The chief contribution to beautifying the Thames would be demolition not construction.)

The best of Mr Gummer's proposals is his desire for "markers" on the shore, focal clusters of piers, gardens, monuments and squares intended to bring the city down to the shore. Apart from modest efforts at Colindale and Butler's Wharf, the only real fusing of architecture and water in London is Quinlan Terry's Richmond town centre. Here the river is a true performing artist, with buildings and terraces its audience. If Mr Gummer can find the time and money to punctuate other parts of the bank with similar theatricals, good luck to him. The ghastly stretch from Westminster to Chelsea commands immediate attention. From the blighted Tower Bridge, Jubilee Gardens and Battersea Power Station sites to the forlorn mistakes of the

Tower Hotel and the King's Reach offices, the Thames seems cursed to flow through a landscape of bad decisions, taken, and good ones postponed.

Yet a Thames renaissance is, as Caisley said, mostly a quaint fantasy of those who never go near the river, despite half a century of costly enrichment. It is William Morris's "dream of London, small and white and clean." The clear Thames bordered by its gardens green. Perhaps upstream the traces of riverine romance can be revived along the Golden Reach from Kew to Twickenham, where Augustan and Palladian relics are glimpsed through what is still a picturesque landscape. But this is not the London Thames.

The river with which Mr Gummer seeks to do battle is Eliot's "strong brown god", surging back and forth each day outside Parliament and defying all attempts to tame it. The Thames in full spate on a windy day is one of the few patches of wildness left in the capital. To sit on the top deck of an Embankment bus and watch a tugboat captain wrestling against the tide is a splendid sight. This is the

grand old man reminding us of his prime, of a water thick with royal barges, tugboats, steamers and clipper, alive by day with masts and spars and by night with the groaning and clanking of lighters. Here Dickens's watermen rowed out to smuggle convicts and rob corpses.

If Mr Gummer could fill his river with such exotic flotsam he might make progress. For the moment he has to contend with an empty stage. Like any stage, there is no shortage of ideas to fill it, only a shortage of takers. Any city river is a strip of water bounded by good intentions. A future for the Thames depends on Londoners wanting to use it and the English climate enticing them to do so. Both assumptions are unreliable.

Raise the Thames barrage and make the river a pond, and yachtsmen, fishermen and swimmers may rush to its banks. But as long as the stream is tidal, it will remain a wild torrent pouring through London's heart, neglected by all except aficionados. Old Father Gummer can have his markers, and the sooner the better. But I fear that the great brown god will sooner or later catch him by the sleeve and carry him out to sea with a grin.

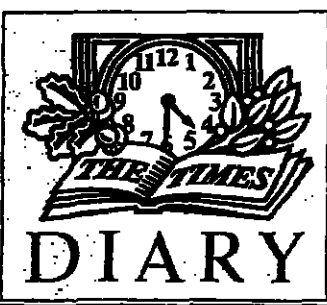
# Archer's back

LORD ARCHER's political antennae are twitching again. The novelist is to lay down his pen on behalf of the few remaining Tories in Scotland. He is planning to campaign in the Perth and Kinross by-election later this month.

The move has been welcomed by Perth and Kinross Conservatives who are lying in third place behind the Scottish National Party and Labour, according to the latest poll. "He is an excellent campaigner and if anyone offers to help we'll be delighted," says a spokesman. "We're planning the details of his visit."

But there is consternation at Conservative Central Office in London, where some regard Archer as a liability since he was linked to share dealings in Anglia Television last year.

"Jeffrey has been lying low for a long time but is making a reappearance," says one source. "He has recently made a couple of speeches urging the party to stick together. And now he is going to Perth. Some would say he is jostling for position in anticipation of a summer reshuffle."



Lord Archer, however, denies that he is "busting a gut" to return to politics. "I am still getting 30 to 40 invitations a week but I certainly can't do them all."

## Together

THURSDAY'S announcement that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev Derek Worlock, was to retire drew an unusual tribute from the offices of his Anglican counterpart, the Right Rev David Sheppard.

The Bishop's chaplain, the Rev Paul Dawson, whistled up a quick

limerick in appreciation: *So Scousers shall lose their Archib No more fish, no more chips, for their tea No feeling morose He's shown us how close The Kingdom of Heaven might be.*

Fish and chips? "Well you see that's what we call the Archbishop and the Bishop," explains Dawson. "They are always together; and they are always in the paper."

## Grounded

LORD Nolan may have started something by trying to stop MPs from exploiting their positions and enjoying undue privilege. The foreign jaunts of select committee members appear to be under threat because of satellite technology.

The Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, will soon set a new precedent by appearing in front of the foreign affairs committee by satellite — which means no freebie for its members to Hong Kong.

## Sharp tongue

THE 100th anniversary of the first theatrical knighthood, awarded to Henry Irving in 1895, will be celebrated in London tomorrow. His

granddaughter Lady Brunner, 91, will be in the audience for a show at the Garrick Club which brings to life Irving's acquaintances such as his manager Bram Stoker, Bernard Shaw and his lover, the actress Ellen Terry.

Brunner never knew her grandfather but she once saw Ellen Terry perform and is convinced Sir Henry was right to abandon his wife for the actress. "My grandmother was very sharp-tongued — he was ab-



"Personally I'd like to see more proof that a Scottish Conservative really exists"

solutely right," she says. The final straw came when Irving and his wife were being driven home from a first night at the Lyceum, explains Brunner: "He asked her what she thought of his performance. She replied: 'You made a greater fool of yourself than ever.' At that he got out at Hyde Park Corner and walked off into the night forever."

● The Leo Dowling family were sitting at home in Ormond Beach, Florida watching a video when a huge chunk of frozen matter from an aircraft passing overhead crashed through their roof. The incident interrupted their viewing of the film *Airplane*.

## Ex cathedra

THE TOWERING throne occupied by the Duke of Kent in his capacity as the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England will be overrun with children tonight. It will be transformed into part of Noah's Ark when Benjamin Britten's opera *Nope's Fludde* is performed for the Covent Garden Festival. Cohorts of local school-children have been co-opted and have been hard at work going into



Hurley and Lumley: thrills at Harrow

the ark two by two. "We just have to ensure the giraffe doesn't team up with the hippo," says a childminder.

## Fabulous

TEENAGERS at Harrow School are itching with excitement after news of a planned visit from Britain's two icons of theatrical glamour, Elizabeth Hurley and Joanna Lumley. They will be the guests of honour at a charity concert to be held on the school playing grounds. The do on June 17 will be more



Hurley and Lumley: thrills at Harrow

stead than the groovy world of Lumley's character Patsy in *Absolutely Fabulous*. And some way from the catwalk carry-ons of Hurley and her infamous dresses. The Band of the Royal Marines and the BBC Concert Orchestra are playing, accompanied by fireworks. Lumley, whose son James attended the school, has visited before. "She used to come to take part in the Old Harrovian Shakespeare productions, which made us all tremendously excited," says an old boy.

P-H-S





## TEEMING SPIRES

The Good University Guide makes the choice a little easier

As A levels loom for pupils at the top of their schools, those in the year below have a happier but no less important task at this time of year. Now is the season for contemplating applications to university. The choice is so enormous as to be daunting as well as exciting. With 97 institutions offering tens of thousands of courses to a student population of one million, how are potential undergraduates to make up their minds?

Until recently, the choice tended to be more than a little arbitrary. Word of mouth, parents' own experience, and limited advice from schools often formed a tenuous basis for selection. At the same time, the expansion of higher education made the process ever more bewildering. Since 1992, though, *The Times* has produced its own Good University Guide, ranking the institutions and commenting on their strengths and weaknesses. Our intention is to navigate prospective applicants through the possibilities and pitfalls of higher education.

For five days next week, we shall be publishing extracts from the guide (which is also available from Times Books), with accompanying articles on such subjects as the changing face of higher education, the hottest tips for a successful application, how to choose the right Oxbridge college, and which universities are the most popular. With applications expected to be even higher than last year for the same number of places, good information could make the difference between success and failure.

The universities themselves have never been very happy with the notion of ranking. When we published our first league table, there were cries of "Unfair". The same was true in America, though, for a ranking which is now commonly accepted. Each year, we try to refine the criteria used for judging and to make the table ever more

accurate. It is a measure of the league's growing acceptability within the higher education establishment that for the first time this year every university co-operated in checking the statistics that we produced.

Enthusiasm for the guide in the outside world, however, is striking. Prospective students find it hard to obtain unbiased advice — whether about courses, teaching and academic reputation, or about accommodation, food, ambience and nightlife. They need to know not only which universities are the best, but which are realistic targets at which to aim.

Choosing a university is also about choosing a way of life for three years. It makes a big difference whether a student ends up on a campus miles outside town or in a London college in the middle of a bustling but impersonal city. Some will consider nightlife or a thriving arts scene important; others might be more interested in pursuing sport or enjoying the countryside. Academically, students have to consider whether they want to do modular courses, joint subjects or single subjects. Do they prefer continuous assessment or end-of-year exams? Do they want to continue their best subject at school or to embark on something quite different?

Only one person can make these decisions. But choice is all the better for being informed. Rankings are by their nature blunt instruments, and there is no substitute for visiting a shortlist of universities and talking to students who are currently pursuing an applicant's preferred course. The difficulty lies, however, in drawing up the shortlist in the first place. "Where do I start?" is the most common cry of the confused university applicant. Next week's guide should help them to cut a path through the undergrowth.

## A CAPITAL QUESTION

Is it to be Jerusalem versus the peace process?

As negotiations between Yitzhak Rabin's Government and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority continue to lurch in every direction but forward, the Israeli administration has ordered the seizure for Jewish housing of 131 acres of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem. The Israeli public responded with ebullient approval: the Palestinian reaction was marked by resentful indignation. Clearly, by this measure, the seizure does not advance the cause of the now-tattered Declaration of Principles. But Jerusalem was never going to be easy: in fact, it was always going to be this difficult.

That is the reason why the 1993 accord allowed the start of the negotiations on the "permanent status" of Jerusalem to be deferred until mid-1996. There may have been a touch of the ostrich in the allocation of last place in the queue to the issue that is always foremost in Israeli and Palestinian minds. Yet Israel has always argued that agreements should come in stages: it is only from the successful resolution of lesser disputes that the courage to approach the most emotive conflicts will come.

The latest seizure of Palestinian land provokes important questions: can the Israeli Government take such action? And should it have taken such action? These were questions stirred earlier this year by the dust of Israeli bulldozers at the Palestinian village of al-Khader, in the occupied West Bank. Mr Arafat described the construction of those new settlements as in "flagrant violation" of the Declaration of Principles, words which he and his political associates were to repeat after the recent seizures in east Jerusalem.

In purely textual terms, the accord does not disallow the kind of action which Israel has just taken. But peace between Israel and

the Palestinians is not a matter of text alone: more important even than the letter of the accord is the spirit in which it is interpreted. The seizure of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem runs strictly counter to the essence of the Declaration of Principles — just as the continued building of settlements in the West Bank does.

Yet in extending Jewish control over a wider swath of east Jerusalem, Mr Rabin is seeking to win back some of the political high ground he has lost to the opposition Likud. The seizure serves his domestic interests, so much so that he has calculated that his Government can cope with controlled international criticism. And although Mr Arafat has been critical, he has been careful not to be strident. He understands as well as anyone that a Likud government would give him no quarter: its putative Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has made clear his contempt for the Declaration of Principles. Mr Arafat cannot afford a Likud victory in next year's elections: he derives strength from a Rabin ascendancy, even if the Israeli Prime Minister strengthens himself momentarily by weakening Mr Arafat.

But both peoples — Israeli and Palestinian — must realise that the alternatives to the present interlucts will only make the conflict more insoluble. Likud would reject Mr Arafat: Hamas is intent on undoing history. The painful paradox is that Mr Rabin's formula for Jerusalem will only strengthen the hand of Hamas. Each slight to Mr Arafat, each act which confirms that the Israeli Government is still unwilling to regard its erstwhile Palestinian foes as their present political equals, nourishes hatred of Israel in Gaza and the West Bank. There must be better ways of seeking peace than by seizing land.

## BRIEF WAFFLE

The indefeasible right to talk the hind legs off a donkey

Ladies and gentlemen of what may legitimately be described as our national daily jury, without either hyperbole on the one hand or rebuttal on the other hand or undue metaphor on the third hand, the Lord Chief Justice will, of course, be your guide in all matters of law. That is both his right and his constitutional duty.

Accordingly, now that he has in layman's language ordered lawyers to cut the waffle and meet strict trial deadlines, of course they will obey him meticulously — as to the law. However, on the facts of his Lordship's instruction, you the jury are the sole judges. Ever since Magna Carta, the lawyers of England and Wales, with a somewhat similar arrangement for their learned brothers in northern Britain, have had an emphyteutic right not to be impeded in their duty to put the case for their clients with the highest possible degree of care and verbosity. If they failed in their logorrhea, their profession would be eviscerated.

You should not trouble your heads with this legal jargon. Let me put it simply for you, in words of one syllable intelligible by the man in the Clapham omnibus, or, as I suppose we have to say these days in the Northern single-parent ethnic lesbian on the result party of his own fault and partly of the fault of any other person or persons, particularly the Lord High Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice, a claim in respect of that damage shall not be defeated by reason of

the fault of the barrister suffering that damage. To cut a long story short, we at the Criminal Bar fear that we may be forced to pay for wasted costs and delay. This would be a tort, malfeasance, misfeasance and a constitutional outrage.

Moreover, precedents and case law confirm the prescriptive right of British lawyers to talk for as long they want, *namine contradicente* as we lawyers say, except another learned friend with a right of audience. This is as fundamental a liberty as our right to place wigs of horse-hair or goat's hair on our heads. Take away either of these rights, and the whole system of English jurisprudence will be undermined. The State's foundations will quiver. One of the best-loved novels by the well-known writer Charles Dickens is a paean in praise of the procedures of the Court of Chancery in the case of *Jarndyce and Jarndyce*, and the selfless eloquence of the lawyers representing all parties extending over several generations. That case may have seemed interminable. Those who do not understand the law might have called it "waffle". But it was what lawyers describe as not only justifiable but also justifiable.

Readers of the jury, you may ask what is in this for barristers. Well, the answer is about £1,000 for three questions. You may ask in your understandable confusion at the workings of the law if that is not rather steep. And the plain answer, without any beating about the bush or peradventure, is Yes. And now, what is your third question?

## Chancellor and Governor at odds

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, Having served for 14 years on the Treasury and Civil Service Committee of the House of Commons I had a chance to receive evidence from both the Treasury and Bank of England economists over many years.

I am therefore amazed that the Labour Party and so-called monetary experts say that when the Bank speaks all others should be silent.

Both the Bank and the Treasury employ similar soothsayers who at the age of 25-30 are unfailing experts on what the Chancellor should do: from my experience of vast mountains of predictions, an experienced politician has as much chance of being right as the Bank and above all politicians, if they are wrong, lose their jobs. Economists just sigh and make more predictions and go cheerfully on being wrong more often than not.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK  
(Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, 1979-92),  
124 Lady Byron Lane,  
Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.

From Mr W. N. P. Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer said yesterday that he has "endeavoured to be his own man" (report, May 12) in his dealings with the Governor of the Bank of England.

The problem surely is that, under the provisions of the Maastricht treaty relating to stages two and three of economic and monetary union, there is a legal requirement for governors of banks not to "seek or take instructions from the member states."

Where does this put section 4 of the Bank of England Act of 1946, which prescribes that the Treasury may give directions to the Bank of England? This matter should be analysed as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM CASH,  
House of Commons.  
May 12.

From Mr Richard Lee

Sir, It must be a cause for concern when the Governor of the Bank of England is publicly doing his best to encourage higher interest rates against the wishes of the Chancellor.

The Chancellor holds office by the democratic process. If the unelected Governor of the Bank of England finds decisions which go against his wishes cause him to lose sleep, maybe it is time for him to consider spending more time with his family.

Industry needs, above all else, a stable economic environment in which to plan long-term investment. Tantrums and stamping of feet are not the way to do it.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD LEE,  
Kent House, Lake Road,  
Ambleside, Cumbria.  
May 12.

## Menace of mink

From Mrs Rosalie Habgood

Sir, I am glad Mr Morris (letter, May 11) has drawn attention to the damage inflicted by mink on other wild life. We have had ample opportunity to observe the devastation here not only to the water fowl and water vole on the Ouse but also the wild and golden pheasant in the grounds alongside the river.

Over the last few years I have managed to trap or shoot some eighteen mink — but still they come. I can confirm they are wily and ruthless killers. I find also that they are becoming more wary and therefore more difficult to catch.

They do not belong within our ecology and I hope everything will be done to eliminate them so that once again our indigenous species can thrive.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSALIE HABGOOD,  
Bishopthorpe Palace,  
Bishopthorpe, York.  
May 11.

From Mrs Annabel Geddes

Sir, Now that feral mink have become an environmental threat, do you think I could retrieve my poor old mink coat from its spider-infested cupboard, and wear it with pride — or is that asking too much?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNABEL GEDDES,  
Gaston Manor, High Street,  
Tisbury, Wiltshire.  
May 11.

## Dressing the part

From Mr Peregrine Fellowes

Sir, In answer to Mr Edwards's question (letter, May 8; also letter, May 11), the English have happily been spared the outmoded cliché of a "national dress", but, if there were one, it could only be a hair shirt.

Yours faithfully,  
PEREGRINE FELLOWES,  
The Court,  
Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Epilogue to VE-Day remembrance

From Mrs Esmé Barron

Sir, As one whose young husband was one of those who paid the tremendous price for our 50 years of peace, I would like to thank all — organisers and participants — who made the anniversary of VE-Day such a moving and dignified occasion.

The service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday I am sure must have touched all, and the happiness of the celebrations on Monday was a fitting reminder to all who remember the actual ending of the war.

There was a great deal of personal sadness for far too many, but a ray of gladness in the thought that perhaps all those wonderful young men paved the way of peace for their own children and their grandchildren.

Yours etc,  
ESMÉ BARRON,  
45 Churchchurch Road,  
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.  
May 9.

From Mrs Gaia Servadio Myddelton

Sir, In October 1938, two weeks after my birth, my father had to make a statement to authorities, under the new Italian racial laws, that he belonged to "la razza ebrea". In September 1943 the Germans invaded Italy and my family changed our names, and fled.

It was no longer humiliation and poverty, it was manhunt. During those months in hiding the family would secretly gather with trusted friends to listen to the forbidden broadcasts from the BBC.

The first months brought terrible news but then came the turning point of Stalingrad, a "sound" I still remember. The BBC kept us going and I remember every detail, the Beethoven notes, the messages in code for the partisans, the voices.

The fortitude of the British people, the BBC broadcasts, the British Armed Forces, kept us not only alive but hoping. The British people fought against evil. For this, I shall be forever grateful to this country.

Yours sincerely,  
GAIA SERVADIO MYDDELTON,  
31 Blomfield Terrace, SW1.  
May 4.

From the Reverend Richard Barrett

Sir, While one understands the revolution felt at mention of Hitler on VE-Day, Mr Kieran Connolly's statement that "the main thrust in praying for the dead is in praying for those whose memories are revered" (report, May 12) effectively excludes a sizeable proportion of the population from the Church's intercessory ministrations.

Surely we pray for anyone whose soul needs saving? In this respect the Church holds to what Chesterton called the democracy of the dead. Furthermore we are especially enjoined by the Founder to "pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew v, 43-44). Would this not include right and left-wing dictators?

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD BARRETT,  
The Priests' House,  
2 Brereton Road, Bedford.  
May 12.

## Future of Radio 1

From Mr Justin Harper

Sir, Peter Barnard (Arts, May 4) writes that Radio 1 should be sold in order to "free resources for the BBC to do even better what the private sector shows no interest in". Surely the recent decline in Radio 1's listening figures is precisely as a result of having chosen a path that no commercial station would follow.

Until recently, the only thing on radio that I, as a 22-year-old, would listen to was the John Peel programme. It was the only programme that came close to reflecting my own diversities and, admittedly, eccentricities of taste in music. However, I am now aware of at least four or five programmes on radio that I would listen to. All of them are on Radio 1.

Mr Barnard also writes that young people "are the very group most inclined to listen to tapes, CDs and vinyl more than they listen to radio". In my own case I have to admit that this is true. Why? Because I'm simply not used to there being anything on radio that I would be inclined to listen to. Maybe in time I will listen more. All that Radio 1 needs is patience.

Yours,  
JUSTIN HARPER,  
Ladye Place, High Street,  
Hurley, Berkshire.  
May 4.

## Road protesters

From Mr J. G. Hillaby

Sir, Mr Allan Lupton suggests (letter, May 3) that next time courts find in protesters' favour, the Department of Transport should carry on building the road regardless. He is nearer the mark than he thinks.

After a painstaking public inquiry into a proposed 14km bypass around Hereford, the inspector rejected the entire route because of its effect "upon the environment and landscape through which the route would run".

He found the objections "well-founded and substantial", and that the only effective way of overcoming them would be to take the bypass the other side of the city. He thanked the

From Ms Magda Stirling

Sir, The declaration of peace in 1945 heralded the greatest party of all times across London and the whole country. In the area of Hyde Park where I was on Monday after the speeches and the extraordinarily moving two minutes' silence, we waited, hundreds of thousands of us, for the party — fifty years on — to continue.

We watched a bad television programme — crooner after crooner singing dirge after dirge. We had no part to play. The fireworks were too late to retrieve the sparkle.

Funny, in 1945 it was the people's victory, the people's festivities. Our children will think we have forgotten how to have a party.

Yours faithfully,  
MAGDA STIRLING,  
99 Kenyon Street, SW6.  
May 6.

From Mr Dominic Beddow

Sir, While enjoying the festivities in Hyde Park and outside Buckingham Palace this weekend, it struck me that one of the best effects of all the VE celebrations is that the Union Jack has been reclaimed from the National Front and flown by people of all political persuasions as a sign of simple patriotism.

Yours sincerely,  
DOMINIC BEDDOW,  
55 Castletown Road, W14.  
May 9.

From Mr P. J. de A. Moore

Sir, I was invited to open the VE-Day 50th anniversary celebrations in my village yesterday. My brief address included the following: "We are still proud to be British, but on this 50th anniversary of peace let us declare war on yobbery and bad manners in whatever age group and whatever level of our society."

I returned home in the evening to hear that Carling had been reinstated as captain of the English rugby team.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER MOORE,  
Rose Cottage,  
Snelston, Ashbourne,  
Derbyshire.  
May 9.

From Mrs Linda Gilroy

Sir, Dame Vera Lynn says that 20-25 year-olds are "poorly informed" about the war, and that "most of them would not be enjoying the lifestyles they have today if it were not for those who got themselves killed in the war" (report, May 8).

Surely those who need reminding of what war is about are those who have witnessed without protest the creation of an economy in which one in four of these under-25s has never had a proper job.

The "lifestyle" they are "enjoying" can be a fertile breeding ground for the kind of racism and Fascism which caused so many to become casualties of the war.

Yours etc,  
LINDA GILROY,  
98 Osborne Court,  
Osborne Place,  
Plymouth, Devon.  
May 9.

## 'Bare earth'

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, In his article, "The real value of science on the BBC" (Media and Marketing, May 3), James Lovelock suggests that "When organisations like the BBC are taken over by their accountants they become like gardens managed by weeding only. At first it all looks neat and tidy but soon there is nothing but bare earth". On the same page the article "Readers take a step to the left" analyses an opinion poll indicating that 45 per cent of readers of *The Times* support Labour.

Many spheres of life today are affected by the Government's obsessive policy of privatisation. Like accountants, its priorities are least cost, maximum profits, etc. with no thought for the consequences. Today, there is little room and only small reward for those of us who provide a useful or innovative service.

Large sectors of the nation are now beginning to see the "bare earth" created by the Government's policies and readers of papers such as *The Times*, traditionally Tory supporters, are now showing their distaste for the type of society which has been created.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN SMITH,  
108 The Meadows, Cherry Burton,  
Beverley, North Humberside.  
May 3.

numerous objectors, including CPRE, for presenting their case with good humour and according to the rules.

The department now proposes the self-same route, again, unchanged — except for two deviations which make it even worse, and will bring it back to a second public inquiry, "if necessary".

Will anyone be surprised if, next time, protesters are massed to protect the ancient woodland and medieval landscape under threat?

Yours faithfully,  
JOE HILLABY  
(Herefordshire Branch Chairman),  
Council for the Protection  
of Rural England,  
Riding Gate, The Great Doward,  
Herefordshire.

## 'Go fetch to me a pint o' wine'

From Mr Andrew MacGregor

Sir, Your advice that wine is good for us is welcome (leading article, May 5). The view that beer and spirits are not so, as reported in the same edition by scientists at the Institute for Preventive Medicine in Copenhagen, is open to debate.

Distinction should be made between natural live or "real ales" and pasteurised beers. Presumably, the Danish scholars base their conclusions on the latter. Unpasteurised beer contains more life-extending goodness than wine, without the unnatural additives which lead to other ailments.

Whisky has no right to be used in comparison to what our competitors claim is food. The benefit of wine is usually conditioned: "if taken with a meal". It seems unlikely that such equal consideration was offered to whisky, which by the addition of pure water becomes "wine" of distinction: whisky is food for the brain not body.

I have to suggest that our Danish friends undertake the not too unpleasant task of repeating their study, using pasteurised wine and unpasteurised beer, diluting whisky with meals or reserving it for spiritual needs.

A reduction in excise for such home produce would allow us to be wealthier and healthier, but I would accept burgundy on the NHS if things went wrong.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW MACGREGOR,  
Craig Mill,  
Strathaven, Lanarkshire.  
May 7.

From Mr John F. Casson

Sir, I read your leading article on the findings of the six Danish scholars on the benefits of moderate consumption of wine while invigilating the 43rd year of the Master of Wine examination. Since the first examination in 1953 only 204 individuals have succeeded in this examination, of whom 188 are alive and well today as members of our institute: indeed three of the original six passes in 1953 are still with us and one of them was assisting with the invigilation.

Yours skollarily,  
JOHN F. CASSON  
(Executive Director),  
The Institute of Masters of Wine,  
Five Kings House,  
1 Queen Street Place, EC4.

From Mr Tony Lawton

Sir, One is of course grateful to the Danish BMJ sextet, as your leader describes them, for confirming what most of us have always known, namely that wine is good for you unless taken in excess.

St Paul, in his first letter to Timothy (v, 23), advises him: "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." It was sound advice then and still is.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY LAWTON,  
The Old Rectory, Skelton, York.

From Mrs Lindsay P. Murray

Sir, Before we all reach for the bottle in an attempt to forestall fatal circulatory disease should we not also take into account the possible effects of red wine on our brains and livers, and a few other vital organs?

Yours faithfully,  
LINDSAY P. MURRAY,  
The Haining,  
Strathkinness High Road,  
St Andrews, Fife.  
May 5.

From Mr David Crush

Sir, I can't help thinking that the researchers ("three to five glasses of wine a day... lower risk of dying from heart disease") are looking at the wrong substance. It must surely be the aspirins taken the morning after that provide the benefit.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID CRUSH,  
45 Rue de Canach,  
Schuttrange, Luxembourg.

## Comings and goings

From Ms Zandria Pauncefort

Sir, Mr Boyle (letter, May 11) might be well advised to find reassurance by celebrating uncertainty. The phrase he cites "I see what you are driving at" implies the possibility that we might know where we are going. Small wonder that the expression is in decline. "I see where you are coming from" is much safer ground.

Of course, most reassuring of all would be to know where we are — but that really is wishful thinking.

Yours (in transitu),  
ZANDRIA PAUNCEFORT,  
Swan House, Avebury, Wiltshire.

## Winged harpies?

From Mr Stephen Caney

Sir, I notice in the School News of May 11 that the Dragon School, Oxford, have invited Old Dragons, parents and friends to a Dragon Ball. Is one allowed to send one's mother-in-law?

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN CANEY,  
32 Kennedy Road,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

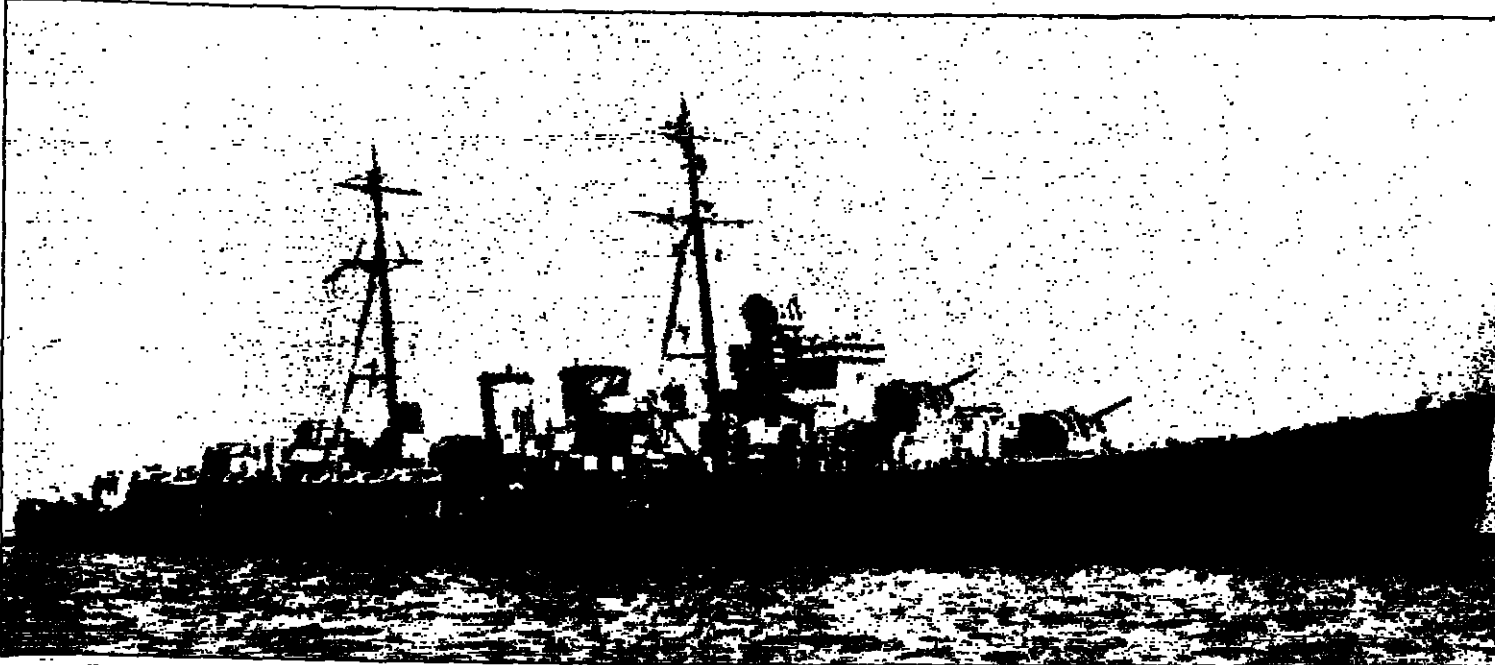






OBITUARIES

COMMANDER ARTHUR POMEROY



Pomeroy's last wartime command, the light cruiser HMS Delhi, modernised and rearmoured for her foray into the Adriatic where she acted in support of not-always-grateful Yugoslav partisans in the winter of 1944-45

Commander Arthur Pomeroy, VRD, wartime RNVR escort captain and shipbuilder, died in Ottawa on April 17 aged 87. He was born on May 20, 1907.

ARTHUR POMEROY represented the best of the volunteer spirit that so enhanced Britain's maritime tradition during the Second World War. Joining the Ulster Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a probationary midshipman in 1927, he rose to the rank of commander RNVR and, highly unusually for a reservist, ended the war in command of a major warship, the light cruiser HMS Delhi.

While he was still her second-in-command, the ship played a conspicuous role in the Adriatic, and Pomeroy was responsible for a good deal of the delicate negotiations that took place, at local level, between the Royal Navy and Tito's partisans who were often not in the slightest bit grateful for the help that was being offered to them.

A member of an Anglo-Irish family, Arthur John Cinnamond Pomeroy was educated at Rugby School before becoming a pupil in naval architecture at Harland and Wolff's yard in Belfast, then the largest shipbuilding plant in the world. Transferring to the company's ship and engine-repair works at Liverpool, and then to ICI's alkali division at Northwich in Cheshire, Pomeroy kept up his sea training

with enthusiasm. From the Mersey Division of the RNVR, he served in the battleship Ramillies and in destroyers before specialising in mine-sweeping trawlers.

At the outbreak of war he was appointed to the Patrol Service Depot at Lowestoft, finding this to be in a seaside music-hall called the Sparrow's Nest. A state of chaos prevailed; all the patrol service ratings, who were fishermen, had no barracks and were billeted out on landladies who continually telephoned the depot to complain about their drunken and obstreperous conduct.

But more serious concerns swiftly supervened. Pomeroy was appointed to an anti-submarine trawler group safeguarding ports and anchorages in the West Country, where the fishermen, experts in gutting fish and splicing trawlerwire, rapidly learnt how to make war. Pomeroy recalled the difficulties in getting any of these reserve skippers to take orders from each other, irrespective of seniority.

As a lieutenant-commander and senior unit officer of the 23rd Anti-Submarine Trawler Group, he found himself in early 1940 escorting East Coast convoys. Later, while taking part in the ill-fated Norwegian campaign at Narvik and Narvik, his trawler, the Melbourne, was sunk under him by a bomb.

After a qualifying course, he was given command of the new Flower Class corvette Gladina. Having

worked up at Tovermory, Gladina operated from Liverpool as an anti-submarine escort in the autumn of 1940, Pomeroy earning a mention in dispatches for seamanship rescues from a torpedoed tanker and a passenger liner.

Ordered to the Mediterranean in 1941, where she was based at Alexandria, Gladina escorted convoys from Alexandria to Benghazi and, because she had been, rather unusually, fitted with a "Double L" towed sweep for triggering magnetic mines, also had the somewhat dubious privilege of sweeping port entrances ahead of approaching forces. Some mines tended to explode rather close to the sweepers. Gladina blew herself up off Benghazi, and again off Grand Harbour at Malta, on both occasions being saved only by her sturdy construction.

She was inured at Malta for eight months during the height of the siege. At that time Axis air power was in the ascendancy and ships such as corvettes, which were not fast enough to complete the passage to North Africa under cover of darkness, had no alternative but to stay where they were.

Pomeroy was again mentioned in dispatches during this period. He had an ingenious and inquiring mind and his knowledge of shipbuilding enabled him to make notable suggestions for improving the seakeeping design of later corvettes, for example by covering over the

forward well-deck and raising the height of the bridge. His expertise with dockyards, his ebullient personality and a certain disregard of the formal procedures also enabled him to get things done for his ship where other captains could not.

His appointment to command a frigate in early 1942 was cancelled because of promotion to commander and he went instead to the headquarters running the North Atlantic battle against the U-boats, at Liverpool. As a consequence of a parliamentary question inquiring why RNVR commanders should not undertake front-line active service on the same basis as Territorial lieutenant-colonels, Pomeroy went back to sea in the spring of 1943 as second-in-command of the light cruiser Delhi, a First World War-vintage ship which had just been modernised and rearmoured with 5-inch dual purpose guns as well as 40mm and 20mm batteries, to give her an anti-aircraft role.

Delhi took part in the landings in Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and the South of France providing gunfire support and anti-aircraft defence. Finally, in the winter of 1944, she assisted in the campaign to eject German forces from the Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia. This was a difficult time. There was a threat posed by former Italian torpedo boats, midge submarines and human torpedoes, now operated by the Germans, who had at last woken up to the fact that in narrow crowded seas like the Adriatic reso-

lute bodies of men in small craft could cause damage out of all proportion to their numbers. The Dalmatian coast was also beset with dense minefields.

To add to the problems, the British were by no means welcomed with open arms by Tito's partisans whom they were trying to help to overcome the common enemy. For a time Delhi found herself virtually blockaded in Split by the Yugoslav naval authorities and threatened by the shore-based artillery of the partisans. However, her presence there was welcomed by hundreds of starving, homeless children who hung about her berth where they were fed by the sailors in spite of partisan attempts to stop this.

Pomeroy was appointed by his captain to liaise with the Yugoslavs onshore and can claim much credit for the gradual easing of tensions during Delhi's four-month stay in Split. The situation improved notably when, in a football match between Delhi's ship's company and the partisans, the visitors allowed themselves to be soundly beaten by a scoreline of 12-1. In the circumstances it was thought somewhat risky for the sailors to win the return, though the margin of victory was tactfully kept down to a single goal.

Delhi remained at Split from December 1944 to March 1945. Eventually she was damaged by a remotely-controlled explosive motorboat, which the Yugoslavs had, rather carelessly, allowed to penetrate the harbour defences. She then left for Malta where Pomeroy assumed command.

Pomeroy was awarded a third mention in dispatches at the end of the war and, having worked in Malta as a resettlement staff officer for the Mediterranean Fleet, was himself demobilised at the end of 1945. He was awarded the Volunteer Reserve Decoration: this was a somewhat mundane acknowledgement, perhaps, of five highly active years in the front line.

His second career led him to Canada where he was for many years a principal planning officer in the shipbuilding branch of the Department of Defence Production. Besides making useful contributions to the design of Royal Canadian Navy escort vessels, he was mainly employed in the scheduling of ship production and the manufacture and delivery of components for Canadian warships.

He first met his wife Rowena in 1942 when she was serving with the WRNS in Liverpool; they married in 1962. He is survived by her and by one of their two sons.

RAY McKINLEY



Ray McKinley, drummer, bandleader and vocalist, died in Largo, Florida, on May 7 aged 84. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 8, 1910.

ALTHOUGH most widely known as a vocalist with the Glenn Miller Orchestra and, later, as the leader of the orchestra after Miller's death, Ray McKinley was also highly regarded among his contemporaries both as a swinging Dixieland drummer and as a musical administrator and talent spotter.

It was McKinley who first recognised the potential of Shelly Manne, when the master West Coast drummer was still a teenager in New York in the 1930s, fixing him up with a job with a new band led by Bobby Byrne. And long before joining Miller, McKinley had a hit as a bandleader, singer and composer with a number entitled *Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar*. At the time of its popularity the tune was blissfully untangled with political or cultural incorrectness and McKinley cheerfully, if less successfully, followed it with sequels of similar banality — *Scrub Me Mama with a Boogie Beat*, *Bounce me Brother with a Solid Four* and *Fry Me Cookie with a Can of Lard*.

Raymond Frederick McKinley first played with local Texas bands, most significantly one led by Smith Ballou, which at various times in the early 1930s included Glenn Miller, Jimmy Dorsey, Joe Venuti, Bunny Berigan and Jimmy McPartland.

When Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey formed the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra in 1934 they recruited McKinley as their drummer and, a year later when the brothers split up, McKinley stayed with Jimmy. It was at this time that McKinley began to develop his talents as a vocalist. In 1939, however, he left Dorsey and formed a band jointly with Will Bradley, a trombone player.

The McKinley-Bradley band specialised in big band arrangements of boogie-woogie, which was the musical craze of the time, and within a year it was featured at the Paramount Theatre in New York, which had been the site of Benny Goodman's first great triumph. It was with this McKinley-Bradley band that McKinley had his *Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar* hit. Yet in 1942 he and Bradley went their separate ways.

McKinley then formed a band of his own but, before it could get into its stride, McKinley was inducted into the military, becoming a member of the United States Army Air Force Orchestra led by Glenn Miller. He was Miller's first choice as drummer.

McKinley's experience as a bandleader proved useful in the administration of the USAAF ensemble which had a full complement of 68 musicians. He was effectively number two in administrative authority when the band arrived in Britain shortly after D-Day in June 1944.

The USAAF Orchestra played at the Queensberry Club and the Forces Club in Soho, performed for the general public at the London premiere of the Bing Crosby film *Going My Way*, and its BBC broadcasts included *Strings With Wings* every Saturday morning.

In addition to his role propelling the beat for the big band, McKinley was featured in one of the small groups from among its members, known as the Swing Shift, which also featured Mel Powell on piano, "Peanuts" Hucko on clarinet and Trigger Alpert on bass.

When Glenn Miller went missing while flying to France on December 15, 1944, McKinley took over the leadership of the USAAF Orchestra for its remaining eight months in Europe.

After the war he re-formed his own band which featured several distinguished soloists — including "Peanuts" Hucko and the trumpeter Pete Candoli — and the innovative musical arrangements of Eddie Sauter. However, the best days of the big band era were over and two years later McKinley was forced to disband the group.

In 1946 the Glenn Miller estate had reassembled the Glenn Miller Orchestra under the leadership of Tex Beneke, a previous Miller tenor-saxophonist and vocalist, and in 1956, when Beneke gave up the job, McKinley took over. The orchestra used Miller's original musical scores and style and interest in it, from a new generation, was boosted by the success of the film *The Glenn Miller Story* (1953) which had James Stewart in the title role.

McKinley and the orchestra toured the world until 1965, visiting Eastern bloc countries in 1957. He then handed the band over to the clarinetist Buddy De Franco. In 1968, however, Miller paid a return visit to Britain for television appearances with his old colleagues "Peanuts" Hucko and another ex-Miller musician, trumpeter Zeke Zarchy.

As a singer, Ray McKinley never made quite the impact of his Miller predecessor, Tex Beneke, but as a drummer he was a meticulous technician who drove his bands along with a swinging rhythm that brought the best out of his fellow musicians.

Ray McKinley is survived by his wife Gretchen Haveman and a daughter.

ADZA VINCENT

Adza Vincent, theatrical agent, died on May 5 aged 77. She was born on December 17, 1917.

ADZA VINCENT was one of those theatrical agents who, by keeping their operations intentionally small, often wielded more influence within the business than many of the large, established agencies. Adza managed a select group of clients, some of them Hollywood stars who valued her personal touch when they were playing in the West End or passing through London for European engagements — Olivia de Havilland and Zero Mostel among them.

Working from her tiny house above a laundry in Marylebone, near Regent's Park, she ran a remarkably professional business and she usually got what she wanted for her clients, though she negotiated her deals with charm. She prided herself upon being able to spot new

talent, and Michael Crawford was one actor whose early career was greatly facilitated by her efforts. Her friends included the actress Adrienne Allen — mother of Anna Massey — the director Anthony Asquith, the impresario Hugh "Binkie" Beaumont, Sir Laurence Olivier and Marlene Dietrich.

She also provided secretarial support to the playwright Christopher Fry. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s Adza would trek west to Fry's home in Little Venice every morning or stay with him in the country to type his scripts.

She first met him in 1951 when she was working as the administrator on the tour and the London production of his *A Sleep of Prisoners*, which starred Denholm Elliott and which had been commissioned for the Festival of Britain (this was only two years after Fry's *The Lady's Not for Burning* had scored such a triumph hit at the

Globe with Richard Burton). Then in 1953 Adza returned from Ireland where she had been invited to manage an hotel for her mother. She went to work for Fry full-time and assisted him on a series of new plays, some of them translations from French plays, some originals.

The stage was in her genes. She was the daughter of a major who had served in India, and an opera singer, Kitty Vincent, who had once sung at La Scala. She spent much of her childhood in the Newcastle area and was educated at Harrogate Ladies' College. At the age of 15 she received the Royal Humane Society Award for heroism when, on a houseboat holiday on the Thames, she had rescued into the water to rescue a drowning man "diving and duck-diving repeatedly and often", as the citation read. As a Girl Guide she was also awarded the Silver Cross for Gallantry.



After school she enrolled at the Central School of Speech Training, then run by the

redoubtable Elsie Fogarty. She played one of the Women of Canterbury in the first production of T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* in 1935.

Adza had an exceptional speaking voice and during the war she worked as an announcer for the BBC Overseas Service. In 1945 she took charge of broadcasting in Singapore. There followed her introduction to Fry, and in 1957 she launched her own agency, which she managed in tandem with her secretarial duties.

Retiring as Fry's assistant in 1970, she continued to run the agency until a few years ago, despite a stroke in 1980 which made mobility something of a

problem. When speech became difficult she found she could communicate by singing what she had to say. She determined that this would not restrict her social life and she continued to arrive by taxi to "switch friends" opening nights at theatres all over London, and to negotiate the almost perpendicular stairs at her home in Ivor Place.

She never married and lived alone, though she was kept company by a series of dogs which she walked in Regent's Park. She was a warm-hearted woman and her friends could rely on her to continue "diving and duck-diving" for anyone even slightly drowning.

PERSONAL

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## NEWS

## Major aims for 'people's policy'

John Major last night appealed to the country to help him to build a "people's policy" to win the next election.

Bowing to criticism that the Government has lost touch with its natural supporters, the Prime Minister announced that he and his Cabinet colleagues were to embark on a grand tour to consult Tory activists and the public about the next Conservative manifesto. Page 1

## RAF officer shot by robbers

A senior RAF officer was shot five times when he tried to disarm a gunman who had fired at a woman during a robbery. Wing Commander Peter Drissell, 39, was recovering in hospital after the attack in Vauxhall, southwest London. Page 1

## Sterling soars

Kenneth Clarke seemed increasingly to weather the crisis over interest-rate policy as sterling soared. Page 1

## Vicars' declaration

A Church of England diocese is to ask vicars, rectors and other clergy to sign a declaration stating that they have never abused children before they are accepted for training or new jobs. Page 1

## Cup climax

After nine months of scandal, sleaze and sweat, the FA Carling Premiership reaches its climax tomorrow. Page 1

## Freemasons inquiry

Freemasons face the prospect of a Nolan committee inquiry into their influence at the heart of Britain's Establishment. Page 2

## Policeman shot

A Scotland Yard marksman was accidentally shot in the chest by a fellow officer. Page 3

## Civil War submarine found on seabed

American underwater explorers have found a Civil War hulk that 131 years ago became the first submarine in history to sink another ship. The *Hunley* was found intact in 18ft of water, two and a half miles off Charleston, South Carolina. Page 16

## Brothers' win

Mohammed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, and his brother Ali, have been allowed to challenge a minister's refusal to grant them citizenship. Page 5

## Photographs taken

The South Korean crew of a cargo vessel that rammed a BP oil tanker in the English Channel killing nine people took photographs of British seamen as they fought for their lives. Page 7

## Explorers' fate

The Franklin explorers to the Arctic 150 years ago were forced into cannibalism. Page 11

## Kiev welcome

President Clinton received a rapturous welcome from thousands of Ukrainians in Kiev. Page 13

## Zaire warning

Britons were advised to stay away from Zaire, where an outbreak of the incurable Ebola disease has caused panic. Page 17



Lord Montagu of Beaulieu with the 1906 Renault 20/30 HP limousine, the first car he bought for the National Motor Museum in 1953, which will be offered for sale at Christie's today. It is expected to fetch at least £35,000

## OPINION

**Teeming spires:** As A levels loom for some pupils, those in the year below must contemplate applications to university. Page 19

**Capital question:** The seizure of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem runs counter to the accord between Israel and the PLO. Page 19

**Now that the Lord Chief Justice has in layman's language ordered lawyers to cut the waffle, of course they will obey him meticulously — as to the law.** Page 19

## THE PAPERS

Mr Clinton's advisers did all they could to talk down hopes for the Moscow summit. Even so, the meeting has to be seen as a wash-out. — *The Washington Times*

## COLUMNS

**Simon Jenkins:** Old Father Gummer declared this week that he intended to "do something" about the Thames in London. The time had come, he said, "to break new ground... to realise the river's potential". Old Father Thames winked. Page 18

**Julian Critchley:** What sort of Tory party would survive loss on the scale of 1997? It would be hard to recognise. Page 18

## OBITUARIES

**Commander Arthur Pomeroy,** wartime RNVR escort captain and ship constructor; **Ray McKinley,** drummer and vocalist. Page 21

## LETTERS

Chancellor and Governor at odds. Page 19

## BUSINESS

**Economy:** Manufacturing output rose slightly in March but the underlying trend remained broadly flat, according to figures that appear to vindicate Kenneth Clarke's decision to leave interest rates unchanged. Page 23

**Trade:** Michael Heseltine flew to China at the head of the biggest ever British trade mission. Page 23

**Banking:** Four of the remaining bank shareholders in 3i, the venture capital firm, plan to sell a 20 per cent shareholding. Page 23

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index fell 7.6 points to 3103.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.4 to 84.7 after a rise from DM2.2205 to DM2.2700 and from \$1.5705 to \$1.5720. Page 26

## SPORT

**Football:** By 5.45pm tomorrow either Manchester United or Blackburn will be champions. Page 44

**Cricket:** Tony Wright and Dean Hodgson broke Gloucestershire's opening partnership record by putting on 362. Page 38

**Yachting:** Dennis Conner appears to have little chance of avoiding a 5-0 whitewash by New Zealand in the America's Cup. Page 41

**Golf:** Peter O'Malley equalled the course record at St Mellion to lead the Benson and Hedges International by five strokes. Page 39

**Supercar status:** The electronic brain behind the transport of tomorrow. Page 20

## SATURDAY TIMES

## MAGAZINE

**Diana Rigg:** The Sixties sex symbol may have become a dame, but she has lost none of her appeal. Page 8

**Open book:** Karl Popper's library has many clues to the workings of the philosopher's mind. Page 17

**Dream homes:** Roderick Graddidge defends Sir Edwin Lutyens, who is derided by modern architects. Page 24

**John Mayall:** The seminal English bluesman is still on the road. Page 37

**Stamp of approval:** Stephen Bayley advises on mail etiquette. Page 46

**House style:** Nilgin Yusuf enters the spiritual home of Boy George. Page 50

## WEEKEND

**The house that always sells:** What's hot and what's not in the property market, plus where to find that perfect house. Pages 1, 3

**Merge or die:** Richard Morrison on the dilemma for two London orchestras. Page 5

**Rossini among the roses:** Country-house operas and a guide to this summer's concerts. Pages 8, 22

**Duffed up:** Controversy over the restoration of one of Scotland's best mansions, Duff House. Page 5

**Travel:** On safari in Zimbabwe and Namibia; long weekends in Iceland and Rome; the art of Germany and Spain; plus Capri and Lanzarote. Pages 18-24

## VISION

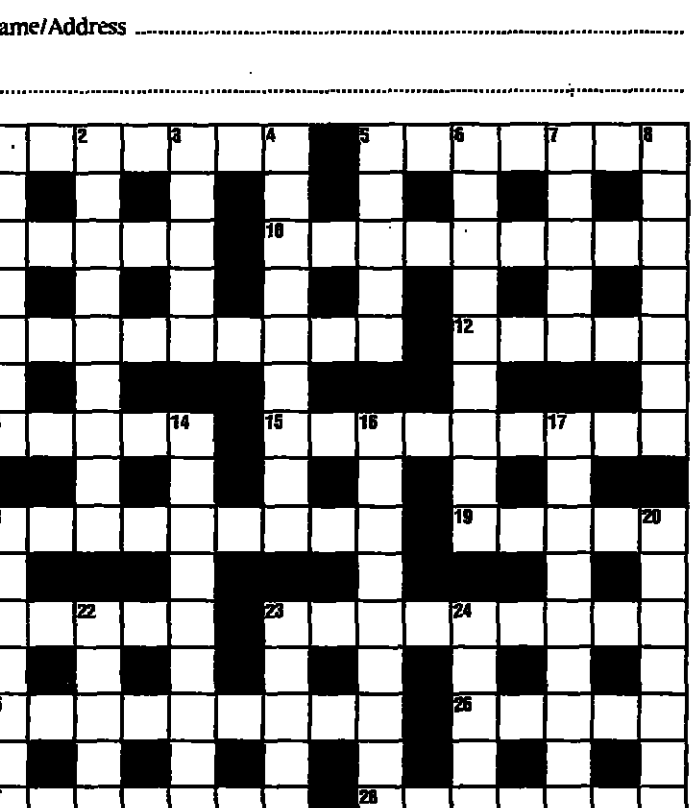
**Party animal:** John Thaw in David Hare's *The Absence of War*. Page 2

**Wild life:** Channel 4's celebration of the Western. Page 4

**Ready, Eddie?** Eddie Izzard's first series. Missed Demos on Radio 4. Page 20

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,854

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



- ACROSS**
- Before church, good brother pipes music (7).
  - In rag, found a line of gossip (7).
  - Trouble if gun rusts (5).
  - Gather mark and enter for following term (9).
  - African creature unlikely to stay still in shade (9).
  - Old ship bearing a noble sort of air (5).
  - Refuse to sleep rough around the end of December (5).
  - Unusual cut in play is restored (9).
  - Fresh cut to the ear — one gets a nasty infection (9).
  - Roman priest held object of veneration (5).
  - Lie around black board (5).
  - Stormach is churning — he enjoys it? (9).
  - Wood work — schoolboy and girl take a hand (4-5).
  - A dishonest approach, but it had style (1-4).
  - Cloth for binding two animals (7).
  - Back in twenty-four hours from Africa (7).
- DOWN**
- In school, brave but humourless (2-5).
  - In India, there's prohibition aplenty (9).
  - Nothing pleasant is held back (2,3).
  - Rugby player as a comic figure (9).
  - Clemens non Papa? (5).
  - Unnecessary weight above lid on food container (3-6).
  - Being prone to perjury (5).
  - Old royal holding container of eyeliner (7).
  - Fictional servant appears correctly in uniform with regiment (3,6).
  - To excel can start to seem wildly in fashion (9).
  - The spirit of old Geneva? (9).
  - Take trouble over baby's first vegetable (3-4).
  - Steady work involving cruelty (7).
  - Simple, or extract of herb, as I call it (5).
  - Note rises and falls (5).
  - Driving instructor? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,848

**HAVER FUGLEAVES**  
I E R R M A W  
N O R M A L I S E B A N J O  
S L I N E A D R  
S H O M I N O N S H A N D  
I S E S E L I  
G I O T T O C R A P P I S H  
H P C V S O  
T H E S P I A N C O M M O N  
N R L P R E  
P R I V A T E P R O P E R T Y  
L N T I N O W E C  
A N G S T D E S E R A D O  
N U L A T I O N  
T O P S E C R E T S A H I R

**ESCAPEE APLOMB**  
N O R I R U I  
A N G R I E S T B A T T E R  
C E N N W N B D  
T O M I C G R E G I O U S  
S T I V E  
A P P R E T I P E N N Y  
S M L L T Y D E  
T H E R E A L T H I N G  
I A I E C A R  
C O N C E R N E D H E D G E  
K T C G N B R G  
S H I E L D V E R O N I C A  
U M A S W E R  
P R E S T O I S O L A T E D

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: A Monje, Godalming, Surrey; J Shaddock, Sheffield; A Hall, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex; J Caton, Blackburn, Lancashire; C Dolphin, Bromley, Kent.

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Yorkshire, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hampshire & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Avon, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northants, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Midlands & Shropshire & Cheshire	709
Shropshire, Staffordshire & Warwick	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Yorkshire & Cleveland	714
W. W. England	715
W. S. England & Wales	716
N. W. England	717
N. E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S. W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edinburgh & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E. Highlands	724
N. W. Scotland	725
Orkney, Shetland & Islands	726
N. Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	733
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

**TODAY**

Location	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	5:11 am	8:44 pm
Edinburgh	4:22 am	7:06 pm

**TOMORROW**

Location	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	5:11 am	8:44 pm
Edinburgh	4:22 am	7:06 pm

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Thursday: highest day temp: Hove, East Sussex, and Hurn Airport, Dorset, 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, SC (41F); highest night temp: Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, 0.2C (32F); lowest night temp: Trevelick, Cornwall, 11.0F.

## FORECAST

**General:** England and Wales will have a dry, bright inland. Coastal showers will soon spread but some southern and central areas will have a mainly dry day. Showers along eastern and northeastern coasts could be windy.

**Scotland and Northern Ireland** will have showers, and these could be of snow over the highest ground for a time. During the evening, thicker cloud will move into the extreme northwest, with rain before midnight.

**London, SE, Central S England, Midlands:** mainly dry and quite bright. Wind north or northwest light or moderate. Maximum temperature 11C (52F).

**E Anglia, E, Central N, NE England, Borders:** showers, heavy at times, perhaps with hail or sleet.

**Wales:** mainly northerly moderate. Max 10C (50F).

**Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** showers and sunny periods. Mainly dry later. Wind north or northwest moderate. Max 11C (52F).

**Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny periods and wintry showers. Dry but cloudy later. Wind north or northwest light to moderate. Max 9C (48F).

**Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** sunny periods and showers. Cloudy with rain later. Wind northwest moderate. Max 10C (50F).

**Outlook:** brighter tomorrow, and warmer by Monday with rain in the south.

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

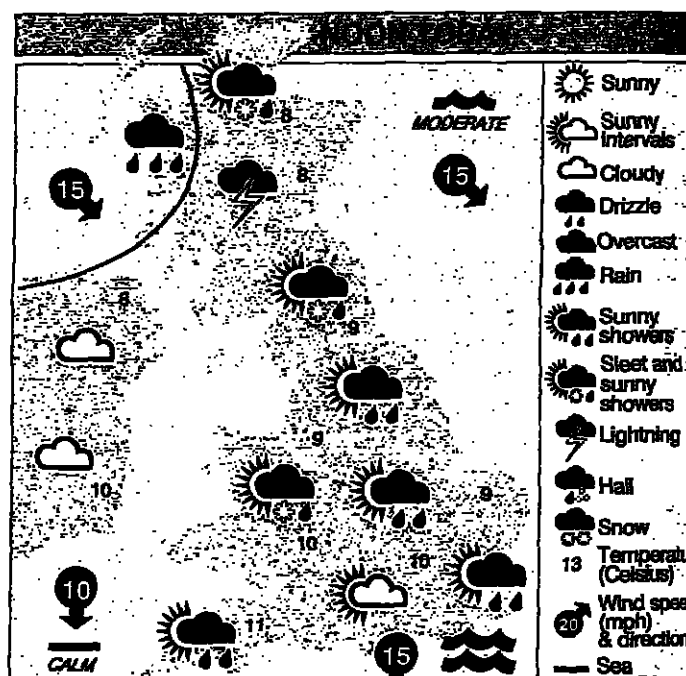
Location	Sun Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	4.3	0.4	9
Anglo	3.4	10	50
Avon	3.2	10	50
Birmingham	2.3	0.3	7
Bristol	0.2	10	50
Buckingham	0.2	10	50
Cardiff	0.2	10	50
Cheltenham	0.2	10	50
Chesham	0.2	10	50
Cirencester	0.2	10	50
Cotswold	0.2	10	50
Cromer	0.2	10	50
Doncaster	0.2	10	50
Eastbourne	0.2	10	50
Edinburgh	0.2	10	50
Exeter	0.2	10	50
Gloucester	0.2	10	50
Harrogate	0.2	10	50
Leamington	0.2	10	50
Leeds	0.2	10	50
Leicester	0.2	10	50
London	0.2	10	50
Manchester	0.2	10	50
Marblehead	0.2	10	50
Merthyr	0.2	10	50
Milton Keynes	0.2	10	50
Newbury	0.2	10	50
Northampton	0.2	10	50
Nottingham	0.2	10	50
Oldham	0.2	10	50
Reading	0.2	10	50
Sheffield	0.2	10	50
Southampton	0.2	10	50
Stoke	0.2	10	50
Sunderland	0.2	10	50
Torquay	0.2	10	50
Weymouth	0.2	10	50
Wigan	0.2	10	50
Windsor	0.2	10	50
Worcester	0.2	10	50
Wrexham	0.2	10	50
York	0.2	10	50

## ABROAD

Location	Sun Rain	Max	Min
Algeria	23	28	11
Amman	23	28	11
Baghdad	23	28	11
Bangkok	23	28	11
Beijing	23	28	11
Bombay	23	28	11
Buenos Aires	23	28	11
Calcutta	23	28	11
Cairo	23	28	11
Cardiff	23	28	11
Chennai	23	28	11
Copenhagen	23	28	11
Dublin	23	28	11
Edinburgh	23	28	11
Hong Kong	23	28	11
London	23	28	11
Los Angeles	23	28	11
Madrid	23	28	11
Manila	23	28	11
Moscow	23	28	11
Mumbai	23	28	11
New York	23	28	11
Osaka	23	28	11
Paris	23	28	11
Rangoon	23	28	11
San Francisco	23	28	11
Seoul	23	28	11
Shanghai	23	28	11
Singapore	23	28	11
Sydney	23	28	11
Taipei	23	28	11
Tokyo	23	28	11
Winnipeg	23	28	11
Zurich	23	28	11

## CHANGES TO THE CHART ABOVE FROM NOON: LOW A WILL FALL AND LOSE ITS IDENTITY. LOW G WILL DRIFT NORTH AND BE SLIGHTLY AS LOW H CRITICALLY SLOWLY WEST WITH LITTLE CHANGE IN CENTRAL PRESSURE

Changes to the chart above from noon: low A will fall and lose its identity. Low G will drift north and be slightly as low H critically slowly west with little change in central pressure



## ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde from Heathrow to Nice on 2 July

- six night Oriana cruise from Cannes to Southampton via Tarragona and Lisbon
- Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 8 July

- six night Oriana cruise to St Petersburg via Oslo and Copenhagen
- Concorde return to Heathrow £1,999

## TORONTO, RUSSIA, BARBADOS

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 27 May or 3 Sept.

- five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • harbour cruise
- Niagara with helicopter • Phantom of the Opera
- Concorde supersonic return to Heathrow £1,999
- or £2,699 for Toronto with Ryder Cup on 20 Sept.

## CONCORDE TO NICE ON SUN, 2 JULY • TOUR MONTE CARLO AND FRENCH RIVIERA • AIRBUS TO HEATHROW £599

BA 747 from Heathrow on 7 July • three nights in Moscow and three in St. Petersburg • overnight train, first class

- guided city tours • Concorde supersonic return £1,999

Concorde between Heathrow and Barbados

- seven nights at Discovery Bay on 23 July, 30 July or 19 or 26 Aug. £1,999

## QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 July • six night Land of the Midnight Sun cruise on QE2 via the North Cape

- one night in Tromsø and Svalbard • fjords boat trip
- city tours • Concorde to Heathrow £1,999

Concorde to Stavanger on 24 July • two night QE2 cruise to Southampton • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 30 Aug. • seven night QE2 cruise Around Britain to Falmouth • Concorde return £1,999

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## SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL

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**BUSINESS TODAY**

**STOCK MARKET**

Index	Value
FTSE 100	3103.3
FTSE 250	2850.0
FTSE 1000	1500.0
FTSE 10000	100.0

**US RATE**

Rate	Value
100 US Dollars	1.5720
100 Japanese Yen	100.00
100 Swiss Francs	100.00

**STERLING**

Rate	Value
100 Sterling	100.00
100 US Dollars	1.5720
100 Japanese Yen	100.00
100 Swiss Francs	100.00

**NORTH SEA OIL**

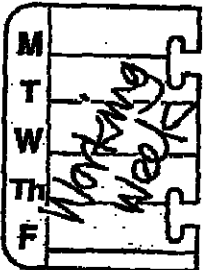
Rate	Value
100 North Sea Oil	100.00
100 US Dollars	1.5720
100 Japanese Yen	100.00
100 Swiss Francs	100.00





MELVYN MARCKUS 24

Our City Editor focuses on SBC Warburg



WORKING WEEK 25

Monument to oilman's work of a lifetime



SPORT 37-44

Torrance plays it again in quest for golf's rewards

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES  
Page 37

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MAY 13 1995

## Lloyd's to unveil £2bn settlement to names

**By SARAH BAGNALL**  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London is on the brink of unveiling a £2 billion settlement offer to names — its second attempt to end the legal actions brought by its loss-making members.

The new revised offer outstrips the original £900 million offered to names in May 1993, which was overwhelmingly rejected on the grounds that it was inadequate and failed to cap names' losses. The £2 billion package is being presented to Lloyd's ruling council next Tuesday and if approved will be outlined to

names at the society's annual meeting at the end of the month.

The offer comes after High Court victories by two of the largest names action groups — Gooda Walker Action Group and the Feltrim Names Association. Yesterday, the 3,065 Gooda Walker names heard they had won damages of £261.7 million relating to losses incurred in 1988, 1989, and 1990. A further substantial sum for interest — estimated at up to £80 million — and run-off costs, together with damages for losses still to feed through, are payable on top. These could push the sum up towards £400 million. The

offer will still appeal to these action groups, however, as there is inadequate insurance cover available to meet all the claims made by the 30-plus action groups. While they rank ahead of other action groups, there is still sizeable doubt over the adequacy of cover. Lloyd's has been trying since last December to broker a deal between litigating names and the insurers of the Lloyd's agencies that are being sued for negligence. However, behind the scene talks have been in progress for much longer.

Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, who is spearheading the settlement initiative, is said to be

confident of reaching the £2 billion figure. A large chunk is expected to be funded by the errors and omissions insurers, who contributed an estimated £400 million towards the last settlement offer. They are said to be under pressure to put up £800 million to the new offer. A further £100 million is likely to come from the members' agents.

However, in a marked difference to last time, part of the funding is to come from profits made by the market in the last couple of years. Lloyd's is proposing moving from a three-year accounting system to a one-year system at the end of the

current calendar year. This involves closing the profitable 1993, 1994 and 1995 years of account at the end of this year, thereby allowing names to receive the benefits sooner.

Another factor is Equitas, the reinsurance company being set up by Lloyd's to take over responsibility for all policies outstanding up to the end of 1992. In return for offloading their liabilities to Equitas, names would have to pay a fee.

Lloyd's is expected to announce losses of £15 billion at its annual meeting on Tuesday, May 30.

Names claim, page 24

## Slowdown in economy backs Clarke

**By JANET BUSH**, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH manufacturing production fell in the first quarter of this year, the first time this has happened since the economic recovery began.

The figures gave weight to Kenneth Clarke's argument that the economy is slowing to a more sustainable rate and did not justify another rise in interest rates.

At the same time, sterling rallied strongly on the foreign exchanges to beat the level it was trading at just before Mr Clarke's meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on May 5.

Developments on the foreign exchanges underscore the Chancellor's instinct that the pound's weakness was a function of international currency turbulence rather than worries about policy and could easily be reversed. He recently made clear he opposed raising rates to defend sterling.

Manufacturing output rose a weak 0.3 per cent in March. But taking the three months to March against the previous three months — a comparison the Central Statistical Office says is a more accurate picture of the overall trend, output was down 0.1 per cent.

The last time there was a fall in any quarter was between the first quarter of 1992 and the final one of 1991. This was before the recovery began in the second quarter of 1992.

The CSO said it now estimates manufacturing is cur-

rently growing at a rate of only 1.5 per cent a year. A comparison of the CSO's trend estimate in October last year, — 5.5 per cent, indicates how swift the deceleration of manufacturing activity has been.

Industrial production overall, which includes the North Sea, rose a strong 0.9 per cent in March but this largely reflected a surge in energy output. Taking the last three months against the previous three, industrial output was only 0.1 per cent higher.

CSO statisticians suggested there was nothing in yesterday's figures which would lead to an upward revision of first-quarter gross domestic product figures, which showed a rise of 0.8 per cent. It was this statistic, which had been stronger than expected, which went a long way to creating the recent discord between Mr Clarke and Mr George. Mr

Clarke said he was puzzled that the GDP figure was so strong, particularly given that manufacturing industry had been flat in the first quarter. He questioned apparent strength in services. However, the Bank on Thursday said it had no reason to doubt the strong GDP figures.

City economists are finding it difficult to square weak official data for manufacturing given buoyant readings from surveys such as the one published by the Confederation of British Industry. The CSO staunchly defended its figures yesterday, arguing that it is a much larger and more inclusive survey, taking in small firms as well as large and representing a broader array of industrial sectors.

Stirling yesterday acted virtually independently of the current debate on monetary policy, moving sharply higher as a function of a strong dollar and a weak mark. However, there was a certain element of intrinsic strength as dealers bet that Mr Clarke will have to concede an interest-rate rise early next month because of the future over the last week.

The pound jumped to a high of DM2.295 before settling back to about DM2.265 at the close. Yesterday's peak was an impressive 11 pence up on the record low as recently as Tuesday. The pound even managed a small gain against a rallying dollar which ended at \$1.520 to the pound.



Frosty welcome: Mike Keegan of Mondex, the smart card company, welcomes Royal Bank of Canada's Thomas Kihry, middle, and Ronald Stanley of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, right, to the cashless society. They are planning to run a Mondex pilot scheme in Canada. Mondex is looking for US partners

## Banks to reap £415m from 3i

**By PATRICIA TEHAN**

FOUR of the remaining bank shareholders in 3i, the venture capital company, plan to sell a 20 per cent shareholding worth £415 million next month, once their agreement not to sell runs out. The news sent 3i's shares 9p lower to close last night at 346p.

The Bank of England, Barclays, Lloyds and Midland currently own 32 per cent of 3i shares. The Bank and at least one of the others are expected to try to sell their entire holdings. Those that stay in will keep 12 per cent between them. NatWest, with 17.8 per cent, and Bank of Scotland, with 2.5 per cent, have said they do not intend to sell.

When 3i was floated on the stock market in July last year Royal Bank of Scotland sold its entire 7.3 per cent stake. NatWest, Bank of Scotland, Lloyds, with 9 per cent, Barclays, with 8.2 per cent, Midland, with 7.9 per cent, and the Bank, with 6.6 per cent, undertook not to sell any further shares until after publication of 3i's preliminary results.

The figures are due on June 8. Marketing of the secondary share sale, primarily to institutional investors, will start after that, with the sale taking place at the end of June. BZW is co-ordinating the sale.

Tempus, page 26

## WEEKEND MONEY



29  
**Anne Ashworth**  
on the outlook for savers

### MORTGAGES

27  
The question of interest rates



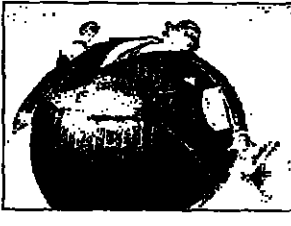
### PENSIONERS



28  
The cost of long-term care

### INVESTMENT 1

30  
Keeping pace with inflation



### INVESTMENT 2



31  
Put your trust in government debt

## BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3918.3	(-7.5)
FT-SE All share	4135	(-1.86)
Nikkei	16420.76	(-40.97)
Dow Jones	4423.29	(+12.10)
S&P 500	525.73	(+1.38)
US Stocks		
Dow Jones	4423.29	(+12.10)
S&P 500	525.73	(+1.38)
European Stocks		
FT-SE 100	3918.3	(-7.5)
FT-SE All Share	4135	(-1.86)
Nikkei	16420.76	(-40.97)
Dow Jones	4423.29	(+12.10)
S&P 500	525.73	(+1.38)
Commodities		
Oil	18.50	(+0.10)
Gold	380.00	(+5.00)
Exchange Rates		
£/\$	1.520	(+0.010)
£/DM	2.265	(+0.010)
£/¥	160.00	(+0.010)
£/A\$	1.500	(+0.010)
£/NZ\$	1.200	(+0.010)
£/HK\$	7.800	(+0.010)
£/R\$	1.800	(+0.010)
£/C\$	0.700	(+0.010)
£/M\$	1.200	(+0.010)
£/P\$	1.500	(+0.010)
£/S\$	1.800	(+0.010)
£/T\$	2.000	(+0.010)
£/U\$	2.200	(+0.010)
£/V\$	2.400	(+0.010)
£/W\$	2.600	(+0.010)
£/X\$	2.800	(+0.010)
£/Y\$	3.000	(+0.010)
£/Z\$	3.200	(+0.010)
£/AA\$	3.400	(+0.010)
£/AB\$	3.600	(+0.010)
£/AC\$	3.800	(+0.010)
£/AD\$	4.000	(+0.010)
£/AE\$	4.200	(+0.010)
£/AF\$	4.400	(+0.010)
£/AG\$	4.600	(+0.010)
£/AH\$	4.800	(+0.010)
£/AI\$	5.000	(+0.010)
£/AJ\$	5.200	(+0.010)
£/AK\$	5.400	(+0.010)
£/AL\$	5.600	(+0.010)
£/AM\$	5.800	(+0.010)
£/AN\$	6.000	(+0.010)
£/AO\$	6.200	(+0.010)
£/AP\$	6.400	(+0.010)
£/AQ\$	6.600	(+0.010)
£/AR\$	6.800	(+0.010)
£/AS\$	7.000	(+0.010)
£/AT\$	7.200	(+0.010)
£/AU\$	7.400	(+0.010)
£/AV\$	7.600	(+0.010)
£/AW\$	7.800	(+0.010)
£/AX\$	8.000	(+0.010)
£/AY\$	8.200	(+0.010)
£/AZ\$	8.400	(+0.010)
£/BA\$	8.600	(+0.010)
£/BB\$	8.800	(+0.010)
£/BC\$	9.000	(+0.010)
£/BD\$	9.200	(+0.010)
£/BE\$	9.400	(+0.010)
£/BF\$	9.600	(+0.010)
£/BG\$	9.800	(+0.010)
£/BH\$	10.000	(+0.010)
£/BI\$	10.200	(+0.010)
£/BJ\$	10.400	(+0.010)
£/BK\$	10.600	(+0.010)
£/BL\$	10.800	(+0.010)
£/BM\$	11.000	(+0.010)
£/BN\$	11.200	(+0.010)
£/BO\$	11.400	(+0.010)
£/BP\$	11.600	(+0.010)
£/BQ\$	11.800	(+0.010)
£/BR\$	12.000	(+0.010)
£/BS\$	12.200	(+0.010)
£/BT\$	12.400	(+0.010)
£/BU\$	12.600	(+0.010)
£/BV\$	12.800	(+0.010)
£/BW\$	13.000	(+0.010)
£/BX\$	13.200	(+0.010)
£/BY\$	13.400	(+0.010)
£/BZ\$	13.600	(+0.010)
£/CA\$	13.800	(+0.010)
£/CB\$	14.000	(+0.010)
£/CC\$	14.200	(+0.010)
£/CD\$	14.400	(+0.010)
£/CE\$	14.600	(+0.010)
£/CF\$	14.800	(+0.010)
£/CG\$	15.000	(+0.010)
£/CH\$	15.200	(+0.010)
£/CI\$	15.400	(+0.010)
£/CJ\$	15.600	(+0.010)
£/CK\$	15.800	(+0.010)
£/CL\$	16.000	(+0.010)
£/CM\$	16.200	(+0.010)
£/CN\$	16.400	(+0.010)
£/CO\$	16.600	(+0.010)
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£/CQ\$	17.000	(+0.010)
£/CR\$	17.200	(+0.010)
£/CS\$	17.400	(+0.010)
£/CT\$	17.600	(+0.010)
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£/CV\$	18.000	(+0.010)
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£/CZ\$	18.800	(+0.010)
£/DA\$	19.000	(+0.010)
£/DB\$	19.200	(+0.010)
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£/DE\$	19.800	(+0.010)
£/DF\$	20.000	(+0.010)
£/DG\$	20.200	(+0.010)
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£/FG\$	25.400	(+0.010)
£/FH\$	25.600	(+0.010)
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£/FJ\$	26.000	(+0.010)
£/FK\$	26.200	(+0.010)
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£/GF\$	30.400	(+0.010)
£/GG\$	30.600	(+0.010)
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£/GK\$	31.400	(+0.010)
£/GL\$	31.600	(+0.010)
£/GM\$	31.800	(+0.010)
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£/GO\$	32.200	(+0.010)
£/GP\$	32.400	(+0.010)
£/GQ\$	32.600	(+0.010)
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£/GS\$	33.000	(+0.010)
£/GT\$	33.200	(+0.010)
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£/IT\$	43.600	(+0.010)
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£/IY\$	44.600	(+0.010)
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£/JA\$	45.000	(+0.010)
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£/JC\$	45.400	(+0.010)
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£/JH\$	46.400	(+0.010)
£/JI\$	46.600	(+0.010)
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£/JU\$	49.000	(+0.010)
£/JV\$	49.200	(+0.010)
£/JW\$	49.400	(+0.010)
£/JX\$	49.600	(+0.010)
£/JY\$	49.800	(+0.010)
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£/KG\$	51.400	(+0.010)
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£/KK\$	52.200	(+0.010)
£/KL\$	52.400	(+0.010)
£/KM\$	52.600	(+0.010)
£/KN\$	52.800	(+0.010)
£/KO\$	53.000	(+0.010)
£/KP\$	53.200	(+0.010)
£/KQ\$	53.400	(+0.010)
£/KR\$	53.600	(+0.010)
£/KS\$	53.800	(+0.010)
£/KT\$	54.000	(+0.010)
£/KU\$	54.200	(+0.010)
£/KV\$	54.400	(+0.010)
£/KW\$	54.600	(+0.010)
£/KX\$	54.800	(+0.010)
£/KY\$	55.000	(+0.010)
£/KZ\$	55.200	(+0.010)
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£/LC\$	55.800	(+0.010)
£/LD\$	56.000	(+0.010)
£/LE\$	56.200	(+0.010)
£/LF\$	56.400	(+0.010)
£/LG\$	56.600	(+0.010)
£/LH\$	56.800	(+0.010)
£/LI\$	57.000	(+0.010)
£/LJ\$	57.200	(+0.010)
£/LK\$	57.400	(+0.010)
£/LL\$	57.600	(+0.010)
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£/LO\$	58.200	(+0.010)
£/LP\$	58.400	(+0.010)
£/LQ\$	58.600	(+0.010)
£/LR\$	58.800	(+0.010)
£/LS\$	59.000	(+0.010)
£/LT\$	59.200	(+0.010)
£/LU\$	59.400	(+0.010)
£/LV\$	59.600	(+0.010)
£/LW\$	59.800	(+0.010)
£/LX\$	60.000	(+0.010)
£/LY\$	60.200	(+0.010)
£/LZ\$	60.400	(+0.010)
£/MA\$	60.600	(+0.010)
£/MB\$	60.800	(+0.010)
£/MC\$	61.000	(+0.010)
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£/ME\$	61.400	(+0.010)
£/MF\$	61.600	(+0.010)
£/MG\$	61.800	(+0.010)
£/MH\$	62.000	(+0.010)
£/MI\$	62.200	(+0.010)
£/MJ\$	62.400	(+0.010)
£/MK\$	62.600	(+0.010)
£/ML\$	62.800	(+0.010)
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£/MN\$	63.200	(+0.010)
£/MO\$	63.400	(+0.010)
£/MP\$	63.600	(+0.010)
£/MQ\$	63.800	(+0.010)
£/MR\$	64.000	(+0.010)
£/MS\$	64.200	(+0.010)
£/MT\$	64.400	(+0.010)
£/MU\$	64.600	(+0.010)
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£/MW\$	65.000	(+0.010)
£/MX\$	65.200	(+0.010)
£/MY\$	65.400	(+0.010)
£/MZ\$	65.600	(+0.010)
£/NA\$	65.800	(+0.010)
£/NB\$	66.000	(+0.010)
£/NC\$	66.200	(+0.010)
£/ND\$	66.400	(+0.010)
£/NE\$	66.600	(+0.010)
£/NF\$	66.800	(+0.010)
£/NG\$	67.000	(+0.010)
£/NH\$	67.200	(+0.010)
£/NI\$	67.400	(+0.010)</



# SBC Warburg: the gospel according to Ospel

And so it came to pass that the House that Sir Siegmund Warburg founded was sold, barring what the cautious tend to describe as "unforeseen circumstances", to the Swiss Bank Corporation for £860 million.

Such a sum represents Warburg's investment banking franchise and excludes its 75 per cent shareholding in Mercury Asset Management which, as of last Wednesday, was worth more than £1.3 billion, valuing the whole of Warburg at around £2.2 billion. By the end of the week, as MAM's share price retreated, Warburg's stake was worth somewhat less and aspects of the unforeseen appeared all the more unforeseeable.

Nightmare No 1 for Sir David Scholey, the soon-to-be chairman of SBC Warburg, was for the SBC talks to degenerate into a repeat performance of the Morgan Stanley *répétition*. As I stressed last week, Scholey would hardly have announced discussions unless he had been convinced that SBC was not

to trot. Scholey, Lord Cairns, Warburg's former chief executive, and Georges Blum, SBC's chief executive, talked co-operation two years ago. This time round fate and the ravishes of financial markets had dealt Blum a markedly better hand.

Scholey, who presumably prefers not to dwell on the exit price Warburg might have commanded in 1993, likened the amalgam to "the clunk of a Rolls-Royce door". The underlying message is that Warburg's expertise in corporate finance and equity broking should fit snugly with SBC's strengths in derivatives, bonds and foreign exchange transactions. Scholey also let it be known that he did not expect anyone to "interfere or impose themselves" on the bid. Nightmare No 2 for Scholey is that an unwelcome counter-bidder just might serve to bring on Nightmare No 1. In the event, Warburg's southerly heading share price — with the MAM tail wagging the dog — suggests that Scholey's expectations have been noted. It is

no secret that interest from across the pond has been shown by Merrill Lynch and Smith Barney. Merrill Lynch's interest flickered late last year, more or less coinciding with the Morgan Stanley saga. Earlier this month, Robert Greenhill, head of Smith Barney, the US brokerage house, along with Sandy Weill, chairman of Travelers Group, the parent company, appeared in London. Their arrival just happened to coincide with a tale, courtesy of the Bloomberg wire service, that Smith Barney was holding take-over talks with Warburgs. Far from talking, Scholey abruptly cancelled a long-standing dinner engagement with the duo. In an attempt to beef-up Smith Barney's investment banking operations, Weill poached a 22-strong contingent of bankers from Morgan Stanley in 1993, spearheaded by Greenhill. In-fighting between Smith Barney's veterans and Greenhill's new guns was bloody and, for at least two dozen of the former, terminal. Greenhill's de-



MELVYN MARCKUS

signs on Warburgs, such as they were, surfaced shortly after his abortive attempt to prize Barings Securities out of Barings.

SBC and Warburgs clearly face a culture clash but the inhabitants of 1 Finsbury Avenue can take comfort from the fact that the prospect of a gun fight at the Smith Barney corral got no further than Bloomberg's wire service.

Thursday heralded bonus de-

tails, a not insignificant detail being the revelation that payments would be delayed until well into June: a ploy designed to discourage hasty exits. A little after 5pm that evening, in a speech beamed to Warburgs's global offices, Marcel Ospel, head of SBC's international and finance division, addressed this and other matters. Introducing himself as a "boring Swiss banker" he declared: "You all want to know what is going to happen next, and no doubt are wondering whether you will be better off staying with SBC Warburg or responding to the pressing invitations of one of our competitors. We really want you to stay and we need you to stay to build a new kind of business with us. This evening I will begin to explain what type of business that will be."

Ospel explained such matters and referred to the creation of a "pre-eminent European-based investment bank", while acknowledging the need to ultimately emerge as one of the "top players in the US domestic market". In his

words: "Our strategic posture is to build and invest in a new bank for new times. This is also the history of SG Warburg, of course, and we hope and expect that your appetite for innovation is as keen as it ever was." With an eye on the sort of assets that might walk after the eventual receipt of a bonus payment he added: "If all goes well in the coming weeks, we may have completed an acquisition in a technical sense but we will only succeed if you and your colleagues really want to stay and to build our new bank."

More of the gospel from Ospel: "We are in business to serve clients, reward our own people and also create value for our shareholders. We aim, in the integration, to create a focused and effective institution whose earning power is greater than that of either of our present organisations by themselves."

"We both have clients. Our business is serving them not gazing at our own navels as we rearrange our activities. Hence, we

aim to have the full integration completed within 12 months."

He concluded: "All of us at SBC are excited about our future together with you, and not a little apprehensive about getting things to work well from the first. We look forward to co-operating with all of you in the design of the integration plan and then in the incredibly hard work of the next year. And we look forward to celebrating our joint success a year from now."

Not bad, for a boring Swiss banker. Defections, as Scholey and Blum know, are inevitable, but action is under way to minimise the fall out in respect of employees and clients.

As MAM fell 32p to 824p, Warburgs's share price retreated 22p to 772p. Realisation has dawned that a takeover bid for MAM is not necessarily imminent from the NatWest or elsewhere. But that is not to say that, after Warburgs's distribution of its MAM stake, there will not be fresh developments. Warburgs is a done deal, MAM a deal yet to be done.

## Ibstock to buy Tarmac Brick for £65m

By Philip Pangalos

IBSTOCK, the building materials group, has built a platform to become Britain's second-largest brickmaker after unveiling a long-awaited £65.4 million acquisition of Tarmac's clay brick and paving stone business.

Ibstock sees the purchase of Tarmac Brick, Britain's fourth-largest brickmaker with an 8 per cent share, as an important step in the continuing consolidation of the UK brick industry and the expansion of its own business. The deal will boost Ibstock's market share from 11 to 19 per cent.

The increase in market share will lift Ibstock into second place in the UK brick market, behind Hanson, with about 30 per cent share, but slightly ahead of Redland, with about 17 per cent.

Britain's top three players will carve up some two-thirds of the brick market, which is widely expected to result in consolidation, viewed by analysts as positive for the industry as a whole as it may allow useful price rises as market positions are leveraged and should offset the downside when hard times return.

Ibstock is part-funding the deal through a £20 million placing and open offer, at 75p a share. The balance will come from bank borrowings, which will see debt rise to about £90 million, leaving Ibstock about 40 per cent geared. An additional payment of about £3 million is likely on completion.

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Brendan McCann hopes to offset the subsequent decline in cable contracts through civil work

## Sharp rise in profits at Utility

By Eric Reguly

UTILITY Cable, a civil engineering company whose main business is installing ducts for cable operators, yesterday reported a sharp rise in profits and its first interim dividend as the cable industry entered its peak expansion phase.

Utility reported a pre-tax profit of £2.2 million for the half-year to the end of February, up 89 per cent from the period in the previous year. Earnings per share were 1.06p, against 0.62p, while turnover rose 86 per cent to £38.1 million.

Brendan McCann, chief executive, said: "The growth obviously reflects the growth in construction in the cable market."

He said that he expected duct-laying work to continue at high levels for the next three years and hoped to offset the subsequent decline in cable contracts in Europe through civil work in gas, water and sewerage industries.

An interim dividend of 0.25p per share will be paid on June 30. Mr McCann said that the final dividend would probably be 0.75p.

## Rail chief delivers disruption warning

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH RAIL said yesterday that the Government's radical changes to the railway system would disrupt the network for a significant time to come.

BR's strong warning about the impact of the Government's rail privatisation programme was coupled with a clear statement that rail operators are likely to concentrate on specialist niche markets rather than trying to service the general public.

John Welsby, British Rail's chairman, said yesterday that BR's performance had fallen back this year — partly because of the signal workers' strikes with Railtrack, which, he said, had severely damaged BR's business and partly because of the effect of adapting to the different rail regime under the Government's privatisation proposals.

Addressing the annual conference of the British Chambers of Commerce in Aberdeen, he said: "Such radical and fundamental changes in relationships within an industry are bound to involve a significant period of adjustment before you can expect everything to be working smoothly."

He admitted that rail was "not a serious option" for most journeys, but said that it had a key role in defined markets — commuting in major urban areas, especially London and Glasgow, fast journeys of under four hours between city centres, and bulk commodity and long-distance freight transport.

Rail, he said, had every incentive to concentrate on those markets, with rural and cross-country services being provided only if public authorities recognised the extra cost involved and were prepared to subsidise it. "The markets for rail are now specialist not generalist ones."

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, said that rejecting proposals to build a new terminal at London's Heathrow airport could cost Britain more than £2 billion a year.

Speaking to the conference in advance of the start next week of a public inquiry into proposals for a fifth terminal, Sir Colin said the prospective loss if it were not built was intolerable.

Tourism could lose up to £1.2 billion and the cost of air travel increase by £1 billion, he said. BA evidence to the inquiry would show that without the terminal existing UK-based businesses would face increased costs because of higher fares and longer journey times.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Kalon merger with Euridip to go ahead

KALON GROUP'S proposed merger with Euridip, the paint subsidiary of Total, is to go ahead, forming a major London-listed paint group valued at approximately £330 million, the companies announced yesterday. Lord Wakeham will become non-executive chairman. Kalon will acquire Euridip in exchange for 220 million new Kalon shares to be issued at 150p and valuing the existing Euridip business at £330 million.

Total will make a partial cash offer to acquire up to one-third of the existing Kalon shares at 140p each, subject to completion of the merger. As a result, Total could own up to 65 per cent of the enlarged Kalon. The Takeover Panel has agreed that Total will not be required to make a general offer for the outstanding shares. Kalon proposes to pay a special dividend of 10p a share on July 28. Dealings in Kalon shares, currently suspended, will resume on June 14. The Kalon board envisages annual savings of £10 million. In 1994 Euridip earned operating profits of FF244 million (about £28.7 million).

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## Cluff to allot new shares

CLUFF RESOURCES, the gold mining company headed by Algy Cluff and which is devoted to Africa, plans to allot 3.63 million new shares, or 5 per cent, to Echo Bay Mines, the Canadian group, at 60p a share. The £2.2 million proceeds will be deployed on further exploration work on Cluff Resources' promising Getta licence in Tanzania — site of one of the oldest gold mines in East Africa, and from where Cluff Resources has already reported encouraging drill results.

## Tokyo 'to retaliate'

JAPAN, under threat of punitive trade sanctions from the Clinton Administration, is considering counter-sanctions outside the scope of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), senior officials said yesterday. Masahiko Komura, head of Japan's economic planning agency, said America's planned strategy of unilateral sanctions and raising the issue with the trade watchdog showed inconsistency. The Japanese Government on Thursday said it would file a formal complaint against America once the US sanctions list was published.

## Gradus set for market

EMPLOYEES and existing shareholders in Gradus Group, the Cheshire maker of floor accessories, lighting systems and carpets, are set to reap rewards when it comes to the market at the start of next month. The company expects to raise about £8.5 million through an institutional placing and will be capitalised at between £28 million and £30 million. Ken Symonds, joint-chairman and co-founder of Gradus, will become a paper millionaire many times over. Employees who have been with Gradus for at least two years will receive shares.

## SFA closes City firm

FIRST European Investment Corporation, a City futures and options specialist, was ordered to cease trading yesterday after the discovery by the Securities and Futures Authority of a "significant" shortfall in its financial resources. The firm was given two weeks in which to meet its capital adequacy requirements. It failed to do so. The SFA said the potential was there for clients to have lost money. The firm had about a dozen SFA registered employees. A spokesman declined to comment.

## Baring inquiry appeal

AN ACTION group is appealing for funds to finance an investigation into the issue of Barings bearer notes in 1994. The Barings 9 1/2 per cent Perpetual Noteholders Action Group, claiming to represent more than 50 per cent of the £100 million notes outstanding, has appointed Jonathan Stone as chairman of a steering committee to lead the investigations. He is writing to noteholders to call for cash subscriptions, which have been set at 0.25 per cent of nominal value.

## Fininvest discloses TV talks

By Eric Reguly

FININVEST, the main investment company of Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian Prime Minister, said yesterday it had received an offer from The News Corporation for its three television stations.

Fininvest, confirming a report in an Italian financial news daily, said it was "evaluating" the offer for Canale 5, Rete Quattro and Italia Uno, the stations that form the backbone of Signor Berlusconi's media empire, one of the largest in Europe.

News Corp, the ultimate owner of The Times, would not comment on the report, although it is understood that there may have been talks. Nothing has been finalised and rumours of an imminent deal were highly exaggerated. One senior official said that he was not aware that a bid had been launched.

The newspaper report said News Corp's offer was worth about \$2.8 billion.

Signor Berlusconi, who left office in December, has said he is willing to sell some of his media interests. His political opponents have accused him of using his TV stations to promote his own political fortunes.

The price of the stations will depend in part on the outcome of a June 11 referendum, which will ask Italians whether private companies should be limited to operating only one national TV channel. If the one-owner, one-channel option wins, Signor Berlusconi would be forced to sell two of his three stations, potentially reducing their market value.

Another referendum, to be held the same day, would ban commercials during the showing of TV movies. If it receives a "yes" vote, advertising revenue could fall drastically. Signor Berlusconi's opponents fear that Fininvest's TV stations will bombard voters with anti-referendum publicity.

## Clearance for BA and Qantas pact

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BRITISH AIRWAYS and Qantas, the Australian airline in which BA holds a 25 per cent stake, yesterday won approval to agree their prices on the "kangaroo route" between Britain and Australia after a dramatic about-turn by the Australian Trade Practices Commission.

The two airlines will be allowed to co-ordinate all aspects of their services — including pricing, scheduling, capacity, and sales and marketing activities — on the condition that they do not raise the real price of their economy excursion fares between Britain and Australia for the next three years. It is estimated that this will save them about A\$90 million (£43 million) a year.

The Trade Practices Commission rejected the proposals in November as anti-competitive. After a submission from the Australian Government and new pricing information from the airlines, Professor Allan Fels, TPC chairman, said he had decided that the detriment to competition was less than he had originally concluded.

## Sarah Bagnall on a court win and a writ for £1bn damages



Deeny: 'great news'

## Names claim Lloyd's broke EU rules

MORE than 2,000 names yesterday issued a writ against Lloyd's of London claiming damages estimated at £1 billion while, separately, thousands more names celebrated a Court of Appeal victory giving them first call on the limited funds available to meet legal awards.

The Writs Response Group, which represents the former group of litigants, is claiming damages on the grounds that Lloyd's is in breach of EU competition laws. The group argues that Lloyd's central fund, reinsurance provisions and the annual process of closing syndicate accounts by reinsurance are competition

distorting. This allegation is due to go to full trial in October and, if successful, then the claim for damages will be dealt with in a separate action. If the names win both cases then thousands of names will be able to claim damages and have certain debts to the society cancelled.

Tony Wilson, chairman of the Writs Response Group's legal committee, said: "All our members who are plaintiffs on this writ are seeking to recover from Lloyd's the losses they have suffered from the 1986 year of account onwards as a result of Lloyd's competition distorting arrangements."

Lloyd's dismissed the writ, saying they were confident that the names' action would fail. Last year, Lord Justice Slynn, in a Court of Appeal judgment, said his initial view was that the EU competition distorting argument would fail.

In a separate move, the Court of Appeal yesterday ruled that funds available to meet names' successful court actions should be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis which means that names on the Gooda Walker Action Group have first call on the limited pot of errors and omissions insurance. Michael Deeny, chairman of the action group, said: "This is great news for all Lloyd's names."

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Austria Sch	18.80	15.30
Belgium F	48.10	42.89
Canada S	2.211	2.051
Cyprus Cyp	0.750	0.695
Denmark Kr	9.36	8.58
Finland Mk	7.40	6.75
France Fr	6.33	7.08
Germany Dm	2.40	2.18
Greece Dr	378.00	353.00
Hong Kong S	12.68	11.59
India Rs	1.02	0.94
Italy Lit	5.2123	4.4823
Japan Yen	2695.00	2540.00
Malta M	148.50	132.50
Netherlands Gld	0.607	0.542
Norway Kr	2.686	2.438
Portugal Esc	10.83	9.83
Spain Ptas	246.50	228.00
Sweden Kr	10.83	9.83
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	ref	8932.0
USA \$	1.655	1.525

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES BRITAIN'S RICHEST 500

The speed with which the new fortunes are being made is astonishing. The fastest — and possibly the most risky — way to make a pile is in the City...

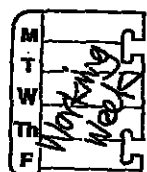
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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: MIKE STEERE

# One man's monument to a successful career

Carl Mortished accompanied the manager of Shell's huge Troll gas project in the North Sea as he realised his greatest achievement



MOST people secretly wish to build a monument, something that will remain to prompt admiration, perhaps provoke criticism and, occasionally, even amusement. Whether a book, a successful business, or the Taj Mahal, it is a universal craving, but one that few individuals manage to satisfy fully.

This week, Mike Steere, manager of Shell's Troll gas project, watched as his greatest achievement, the huge Troll production platform was towed with precision through a Norwegian fjord and into the North Sea.

Few would describe the Troll platform as beautiful, but words such as magnificent and stupendous tumbled easily off the tongue as a ferry edged him closer to the four-legged structure that towered over the fjord like an intergalactic beast from a Steven Spielberg film. At 472 metres, it is the tallest concrete structure in the world.

The project boasts several other superlatives. It is the largest structure to be moved on earth and it will operate in the deepest water in Europe on the Continent's largest gas field. It has been built to withstand five million waves a year for the next half century. It can be operated by remote control from shore, significantly reducing the number of people required to work on the platform, thus reducing the frequency of hazardous helicopter journeys. Automation has also abolished the mud-soaked roustabout; three drilling rig operators will sit in the comfort of a cabin, pushing buttons on a high-tech console. But for the platform's creator, this week had more than the usual significance of a job well done. Mr Steere, 57, a practical, no-nonsense man and an engineer by training, retires next year after 40 years with Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil group.

In the middle of this week's celebrations, he admitted to having more than a professional regard for the one million-tonne platform for the Troll field, so named because maps of the gas field reveal the shape of the mythical forest-dwelling Norwegian ogre.

"I have a lot of emotion in this project. I feel it is mine and I do get offended if people criticise it. It does mark the end of my Shell career."

His career began after a childhood spent moving around the world. He continued to travel with Shell. With his wife, he has followed Shell projects from Trinidad to New Zealand, Cyprus (during the Turkish invasion) and Venezuela. "It helped that we did not have children although my wife and I regret that we didn't," he says.

But his job is not over yet and he admits to feeling tense. The platform has still to be towed more than 170 nautical miles to its operating site, a journey that will take

four or five days at speeds of little more than 1.5 knots. It will then need to be positioned to an accuracy within 50 metres and submerged in more than 300 metres. Its base will be sunk into the soft sea bed and gas production will begin in April next year, with Statoil, Norway's state-owned oil company, as the operator. Pipelines will link the platform to a massive processing plant onshore at Kollsnes, where huge compressors will send the gas down pipelines across the North Sea to The Netherlands and Germany.

The towing operation reached a critical phase on Thursday. Two-thirds of the structure remain under water during towing and as the platform approached the mouth of the fjord, the clearance under the platform was reduced to only ten metres of water. Ten tugboats, eight in front and two behind, acting as rudders, kept the Troll within a narrow channel only twice the width of the platform itself.

Mr Steere's job is all about logistics. Schedules agreed almost five years ago left a window from May 2 to May 10 for the tow-out. He described the last week as tense, an on-again, off-again affair as a last-minute hitch threatened to push the project from its carefully planned schedule.

Two concrete plugs could not be removed from the base of the structure and had to be drilled out at the last minute. Tension increased at the beginning of the week as Mr Steere worried that the fine weather needed to navigate the fjord would break before the plugs could be removed. But on the appointed day, the Troll cast a spell on the

notorious Norwegian weather, which delivered sunshine and a light breeze. But the last-minute hitch pales in significance compared with the crisis that gripped the project just over two years ago. Within Shell, Mr Steere has a reputation for bluntness, a man who is likely to send away those riddled with worry and indecision with a flea in their ear. "Don't bring me problems, bring me solutions" is a phrase he likes to use.

However, in November 1992, Frank Chapman, the man in charge of construction, had no choice but to bring his boss a problem. The concrete gravity base of the structure is designed to withstand the battering of five million waves a year and 100 mile-an-hour winds during the 50-year expected life of the Troll gas field.

It must be designed to resist the impact of "100-year waves", those so strong that they can move the top of the platform by as much as a yard. According to Mr Chapman, they feel like an air journey during severe turbulence.

Platform staff are given simulations to prepare them for the shock when they go offshore. But with the Troll platform, project engineers found themselves with a previously unknown problem. Tests demonstrated that the "ringing" effect of the



Having tamed the Troll, Mike Steere intends to embark on a new, much smaller project, buying some land and building a house in Felixstowe

vibrating concrete, combined with the battering of the waves, required a complete design rethink.

Faced with the news, and the problem of the platform already being one-fifth built, Shell's project director was faced with a potential political crisis as well as a technical dilemma. He had to decide whether or not to inform the partners in the construction, including Statoil, which has a 75 per cent interest in the £3 billion venture.

To have told them would have involved an endless round of meetings, papers and delays; the alternative was to plough on and be confident that his team could come up with a solution.

"It took a year to 18 months to convince people that I could run this project," Mr Steere says. He chose to carry on and the shareholders were informed three months later when a solution had been found. "I think we have now demonstrated that we could do it," he says proudly.

The climax of Mr Steere's career coincides with the end of an era in the offshore oil industry. In spite of the sheer scale of the Troll, the technology is not new. The next generation of oil platforms will be smaller, explains Mr Steere.

Platforms chained to the sea bed and floating production vessels that can be transported to other fields will reduce development costs.

SHALL itself is undergoing an internal upheaval and the organisation that Mr Steere joined 40 years ago is trying to refashion itself to cope with the pressures of a cost-conscious world. As many as 30 per cent of the jobs in Shell's head offices in London and The Hague may be eliminated after a review of the organisation's structure. Mr Steere reckons that Shell will find it increasingly difficult to find career professionals, such as himself,

ready to move at the drop of the hat from one project to another across the globe. "Nowadays, young men have wives with jobs of their own and are less prepared to move," he says.

Similarly, the Troll marks a watershed for Norway. The country is Europe's largest oil producer at present, but its oil supply is expected to run out in about 25 years time. Now, thanks partly to Troll, Norway's gas is expected to last for another 100 years. Even so, Norway, which pumps nearly 2.8 million barrels of oil per day, is expected to become the world's second-largest exporter of crude after Saudi Arabia this year.

Having tamed the Troll, Mr Steere and his wife will leave the house that was their home for four years in Bergen and move

to Felixstowe, where he will start his new project — a smaller venture but involving no less emotion. "I am trying to buy some land and build a house. I know a bit about handling contractors."

Sadly, gas from the Troll field will not heat the Steere home because the Government has not agreed to imports using existing pipelines to the Norwegian North Sea. But Mr Steere can reflect that he helped to keep the home fires burning from The Netherlands to Spain, supplying one-tenth of Europe's gas for the next 50 years. The Troll will not survive for as long as the pyramids of Egypt but, unlike that monument, the Troll has not cost a single life so far. That is probably a far better monument to any man's achievement.

## When the firefighters came with the insurance policy

Neil Bennett on the tangled tale of an old fire engine's final resting place

As Royal Insurance celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, an unusual exhibit at the Chartered Insurance Institute in the City has become the focus of attention. It is a Victorian fire engine, built for Royal in the late 19th century, a key artefact and reminder of the foundation of the Royal in Liverpool in 1845.

The fire engine itself is one of thousands made during the 19th century to protect Britain's rapidly growing cities from blazes that broke out regularly. It was built by Shand & Mason, one of the two main engine manufacturers in Britain. Shand & Mason was founded in 1774 and competed with the better-known Merryweather in a booming business.

The engine was horse drawn with a manual pump that needed as many as ten people to generate the required pressure. The effort was so great that no-one could pump for more than a few minutes. The pumps earned tokens exchangeable for ale in a local tavern.

The engine belongs to the closing decades of an era when insurance companies were expected to run their own fire-fighting services to protect their policyholders, before local authorities took control of the service.

The Royal, like its main rivals, owned dozens of fire engines throughout the country. Homes and warehouses would show which company insured them by displaying a lead firemark. Popular legend has it that if a rival company turned up to a fire, they would stand and watch it burn.



Richard Gamble, group chief executive, and engine

By the end of the 19th century, however, many insurance companies were pooling their fire fighting resources to cut costs.

After several decades in the Royal's service, the engine was given to the parish of Chalford in Devon, where it continued to operate until well into the current century. Royal is hazy about how the

engine came back into its hands, but it reached its current location soon after the Second World War. The risk of fire was the key catalyst in the formation of the Royal. A group of Liverpool merchants decided the city needed its own insurance company after a great fire in 1842 which destroyed seven acres of valuable warehouses

and factories around Formby Street at a cost of £1 million, probably more than £1 billion at today's values.

After the blaze, the London insurance companies became wary of offering cover in Liverpool, whose fast-growing port and industrial centre they regarded as a fire trap. As a result, they raised their premiums.

In response, the merchants formed a joint stock company in March 1845. By June, the first fire policy was issued to one of the new company's directors.

Thanks to the backing of Liverpool's businessmen, the Royal grew at an astonishing rate, and had written 3,800 policies by the end of its first year. It soon opened an office in London and started insuring buildings as far away as India and South America to reduce its exposure to the risk of fire in Liverpool.

To celebrate these beginnings, the Royal had hoped to dust its old fire engine off and make it the centrepiece of parades and trade fairs. The idea soon hit snags. For a start, no-one knows exactly who owns the engine any more. The Royal believes that the Chartered Insurance Institute has it on a long-term loan. The institute reckons it is theirs.

Then the Royal learnt, to its dismay, about the cost of moving the engine. To take it from the second floor would require scaffolding and a major lifting operation which would cost up to £10,000. Reluctantly, the insurer decided to leave the piece of history where it stands. The loan to the institute promises to be a long one indeed.

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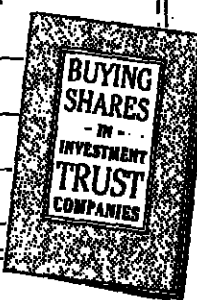
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# WEEKEND MONEY

**WISE BUYS 30**  
Three sectors to help savers keep up the pace



## A question of interest rate rises

Sara McConnell explains why mortgage rates may have to increase in the near future

**Y**ou may have thought you were safe from another mortgage rate rise, but the reality is temporary. This week's publication of lower inflation figures for last month may not be enough to stave off a rise, probably of half a percentage point, in the next month, and lenders say they will respond with higher mortgage rates. At the same time, they will almost certainly raise rates for savers as well.

So how much further are rates going to rise? Are building societies still making a nice profit from the difference between what they pay out to savers and what they charge borrowers? Quite apart from all this, what should you do with your own money? Should

you take no chances if you are borrowing and fix your rate? As a saver, should you leave your money earning a variable rate to take advantage of more rate rises, or should you fix your rate so that you know what you are getting? A lot depends on personal circumstances, but here are answers to some of the questions.

**Q Why must interest rates rise? I thought inflation was falling.**

**A** It is true year-on-year inflation last month fell slightly. But what is putting pressure on interest rates is the Bank of England's prediction on Thursday that the Government will miss the inflation target it has set itself of 2.5 per cent by the general elec-

tion in spring 1997. Analysts also think Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will lose credibility in the markets if he does not match talk of curbing inflation with action.

**Q Why will they put up mortgage rates?**

**A** Lenders held down mortgage rates in February because they thought a rise would be a serious blow to the housing market. This is still their view, as there are no signs of improvement. But this time they claim they cannot afford to hold back. Abbey National says there have been four base-rate rises totalling 2 per cent since September, but it has only put up the cost of loans by 0.7 per cent. Much depends on what the big lenders, particularly the Halifax, do. Once it moves, others will follow. But they know big rises will frighten off potential borrowers, and lenders are desperate for business, so they will not pass on the whole cost. A half-point rise in base rates will probably mean a quarter-point rise in mortgage rates. On a £50,000 repayment mortgage this means an extra £7.52 a month.



Rush hour: Before the days of screens, interest-rate rises were conveyed by messengers from the Bank to their offices

## Take an interest in takeovers

**B**uilding society speculation is rife. Savers are eagerly calculating which societies are next in line for takeover or merger and opening share accounts with the minimum £100 needed to qualify them for bonus payouts of cash or shares.

The question is which of the prospective targets will pay the best rate on your savings while you await the hoped-for takeover announcement. You will never get rich on the interest that £100, or even £500, earns. But since no one knows which society will go first, you might as well make the most of your money.

The advantage of betting on building societies is that you do not risk losing your capital. But the more you spread your money around, the less you are likely to earn on it. If you do not strike lucky, you could find yourself with lots of small investments earning minimal interest.

To find the best rewards, check out the different types of account on offer.

Several societies are believed to be close to a merger or takeover. You benefit most if your society is a target. What the targets are paying:

- Alliance & Leicester. Could be a target for the Nation-

wide, or possibly the Woolwich. With £100, your best option is the instant access account, paying 0.75 per cent gross, 0.56 per cent net on balances of £100. At £500, the rate is 4.3 per cent gross, 3.2 per cent net. There are no-notice accounts until a balance hits £1,000, when the Bonus 180 account pays 5.25 per cent gross, 3.93 per cent net. If you make no withdrawals during the year, you get a bonus of 0.5 per cent.

- Britannia. Said to be keen to sell and an attractive proposition for European banks. At £100, you are restricted to the instant access account. The minimum balance is £10, on which you earn 0.5 per cent gross, 0.37 per cent net. At £500, the rate goes up to 4.4 per cent gross, 3.3 per cent net.
- Bradford & Bingley. Could also be a target for the Woolwich. The First Choice instant access account pays the most generous interest of the three societies. On balances of £100 — 1.3 per cent gross, 0.97 per cent net. If you make three or fewer withdrawals a year, you get an annual bonus of 0.75 per cent.

**Q But surely they can afford to hold rates down? Presumably they are making a decent profit from the difference between the rate charged to borrowers and that paid to savers?**

**A** The margin between savers' and borrowers' rates has narrowed slightly recently because lenders are no longer having to make such high provisions for bad debts, but it still averages just over 2 per cent. In some cases it is much larger. The current variable mortgage rate at the Halifax is 8.35 per cent. But the bank only pays out 4.65 per cent gross on £5,000 in an instant-access account, making its margin 3.7 per cent. Other lenders have similar rates. When interest rates were at their height at the end of 1989, the current variable rate was 14.5 per cent, but on a £5,000 instant access account it was 12.18 per cent gross, a margin of just 2.32 per cent. Of course, many borrowers with fixed rates and discounts pay less than the current variable rate and many savers earn more. Other factors also come into

## Redress closer for mis-selling

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE compensation claims of thousands of people who may have been mis-sold a personal pension through an independent financial adviser can go ahead unimpeded after a High Court decision.

The High Court yesterday dismissed claims by a group of independent financial advisers that the Securities and Investments Board, the City watchdog, did not have the power to lay down the regulations for the way in which people should be compensated.

The IFAs, however, did manage to clarify the position concerning professional indemnity cover. They were concerned that the proposed system of finding people who had been the victims of bad advice could invalidate advisers' professional indemnity cover, which could mean that IFAs would have to pay the compensation themselves. An action that could cause many financial advisers to go out of business.

Both SIB and the IFA Association, seemed to herald the High Court decision as a victory. In reality, for investors hoping to seek redress there will be very little difference for their claims.

Anyone who has been misadvised over a pensions transfer or opt out will be contacted by the insurance company, financial adviser or Personal Investment Authority and the claim can proceed from that point.

A spokesman for the Personal Investment Authority, the regulator which is in charge of carrying out the review said that it would proceed in the way that SIB had envisaged.

However, he added: "There may be circumstances where the financial adviser could be told by their PI insurer that they are in danger of invalidating their cover. There could be several reasons for this. The situation would then be handled by the PIA Pensions Unit."

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth



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## Speculating on speculators

**A**nyone reading the more excitable newspapers (though not, I am glad to say, *The Times*) must recently have been expecting frightening news. No, not "expecting": markets, we invariably read, are "braced for" it. (How, I wonder? First the Group of Seven met, argued, and did nothing. The market was braced for a collapse of the dollar; it rose.

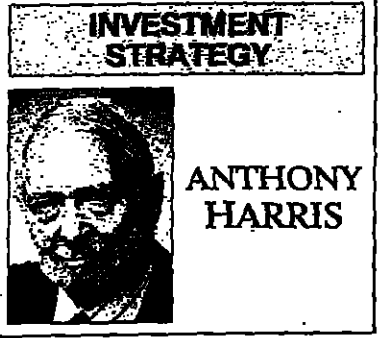
Then Kenneth Clarke declined to do what the market was expecting — not brace this time, but relaxed — and refused to raise UK interest rates. More bracing.

The pound did initially fall (it fooled me, too); but now it has bounced in turn, outpaced only by the still resurgent dollar. Investors who did anything more than tighten their braces have lost quite heavily.

How can the analysts who provide the authority for these false alarms get it so wrong? No problem, you may think unkindly: they get everything wrong. This is less than fair. Analysts often get important things right in the real world they understand: it is in the shadowy world of markets that they tend to fall flat on their faces.

One example will do: Roger Bootle. For several years now he and his team at HSBC (known as Greenwell Montagu when he started) have been consistently right about low inflation, when nearly everyone else was wrong. This took not only first class analysis, but real courage.

However, he went on to assume that as the market woke up to his truth, gilts would rise endlessly — a wrong view



**INVESTMENT STRATEGY**  
**ANTHONY HARRIS**

which cost his employers (like many others) a great deal of money. Bootle is an economist, which might explain it. But even smart market men can make similar mistakes.

George Soros, for example, of hedge fund fame: he was triumphantly right about sterling, but expensively wrong about the yen. It is time for some hindsight.

The mistake economists make is to assume that markets are rational, so that prices always reflect an informed view of the future.

In the real world, this is true only in the long run — a delay which could itself be defended as rational, since economic forecasts are unreliable, and only in the long run that we can discover whether they happen to be right. Unfair, but it might just as well be true.

In the short run markets do not respond to expectations about the real world, rationally or otherwise. They are moved by flows of money, and the news

they follow is not about the economy, but about market prices. Why do we have a bull market? Because prices are going up. And vice versa. Trading is all about turning points.

In this short-term world, chartists, who analyse market behaviour patterns, are much more likely to be right than economists. Traders, with their market nose, often get it right, too. Small investors hardly ever do.

The second ruling error is to forget the nature of speculation. It is a game for two: a speculator and a mug; it is the art not of following the consensus, but of keeping a jump ahead.

Speculators often do "attack" a currency which has official support — the pound when it was in the ERM, or the French franc fort (watch for the next episode).

The central banks are the mugs. When George Soros lost so much money going short of the yen, he was acting as a super-speculator: assuming that the Group of Seven would get together to support the dollar. They failed to split.

**M**oral: there is no reward in speculating against a currency which is floating freely. This is putting your shoulder to an open door, a traditional slapstick way to fall flat on your face. Professionals know this, and the result can be paradoxical.

They buy in response to naive scare stories, assuming that the sellers are mugs; so the price goes up, not down, as did the dollar and the pound. Don't bet on it, though. Leave speculation to the professionals: they can afford the losses.

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When transferring a property, bear the following points in mind:

- What if the new owners are later involved in a divorce? The property will be counted as part of the couple's joint assets and may have to be sold as part of the settlement.
- If the property is in someone else's name, you will not be free to sell it if you want to go into sheltered accommodation.
- You will no longer be able to use your home as security if you want to raise money to maintain the property, or pay for someone to look after you.
- If you live rent-free, the property is likely to be included in the value of the estate for inheritance tax.
- If the new owner dies before you, there could be inheritance complications and you may lose your right to stay in the property.
- Some solicitors suggest schemes for partial disposal of your interest in the property, but treat them with great caution.

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## When the State becomes a burden on the elderly

Liz Dolan examines the growing problem of paying for long-term residential care for the elderly

The cost of long-term care is now the issue uppermost in the minds of the over-sixties. This week Age Concern, the charity, discussed with ministers its growing concern over pensioners being evicted from residential homes because their income support payments were insufficient to meet the fees.

Other elderly people, facing the sale of their homes to pay for care, evoked the words of John Major at the Conservative Party conference in 1991: "I want to see wealth cascading down the generations." Mr Major said his aim was that as many people as possible should "build up something of their own for their own". But he forgot to add "as long as they intend to remain fit and healthy to the end of their lives".

At that time, after decades of rising home ownership and house prices, millions of ordinary people were still convinced that they would inherit a valuable property when

their parents died. Few made the link between the growing property-based wealth of the elderly and the possibility that these assets might have to be used to pay for care if they became too sick, or frail, to look after themselves. That, after all, was the job of the National Health Service.

But, four years later, older people are increasingly being removed from NHS-funded care when their conditions are no longer likely to respond to medical treatment. Or, as Laing & Buisson, the specialist research group, puts it in its latest survey on the care of the elderly: "Free NHS care has become less available as health authorities seek to disengage from long-term care."

Chris Hammett, Professor of Human Geography at King's

College London, said the amount of inherited property had scarcely changed over the past 25 years. While its value has soared from £465 million to £9 billion, the average number of properties inherited each year has remained virtually static, at 145,000. He estimated between 30,000 and 40,000 homes were sold each year to pay for residential or nursing care.

Two years ago, the Government transferred the financial responsibility for all new occupants of residential or nursing homes from the DSS to local authorities, leaving the funding of existing residents with the DSS. Both will take into account the value of property and other assets when deciding whether to provide funding for people in residential or

nursing homes. Anyone with assets worth more than £8,000 has to pay for themselves once they are moved out of hospital, or other NHS establishment. Those with between £3,000 and £8,000 are paid for on a sliding scale. Those with less than £3,000, in theory at least, get their fees paid in full.

Private care is estimated to cost between £15,000 and £20,000 a year at the moment, which means that many people are forced to watch assets built up over a number of years disappear almost overnight.

According to Laing & Buisson, nursing home fees average £333 a week in single rooms, or £313 for shared accommodation. Residential fees average £239, or £224 on the same basis.

Fees rose by an average of just 2.3 per cent for private nursing homes, or 3.1 per cent for residential homes last year. For the third year running, nursing home fees rose more slowly than the average earnings index.

## HOW TO COPE WITH THE CRIPPLING COSTS OF LONG-TERM CARE

■ Insurance for long-term care Long-term care (LTC) insurance was unknown in the United Kingdom market until four years ago. Commercial Union and Eagle Star were two of the first companies to launch such policies.

It has yet to take off in a big way, although there has been a growth of interest during the past year or so. PPP Lifetime (01789 415151), a specialist subsidiary of the private medical insurer, did not begin selling policies in earnest until last year, but is now the market leader.

Policyholders with PPP Lifetime pay a minimum £30 a month, or £300 a year, in regular premiums. The minimum single premium is £2,500, or £1,000 to top up regular premiums. Benefits range between £300 and £3,000 per month.

"These policies are not for everyone," said Peter Gatenby, appointed actuary. "Different solutions suit different people."

The average policyholder is 67. A 65-year-old man pays £70 a month for £12,000 annual cover, rising 5 per cent a year. PPP is only aiming at the 60-75 age group at the moment.

There is very little interest in these policies among younger people, except

perhaps to fund cover for their parents, Mr Gatenby added.

In its submission to the Health Select Committee inquiry, PPP called for tougher regulation of the LTC insurance market. Mr Gatenby said: "These products are not regulated because there is no investment element. But, unlike cheaper protection insurance, they do involve fairly large premiums."

"The average single premiums are £10,000. We're often approached by intermediaries who have been thrown out of the regulated end of the industry, or don't want to be regulated. They're very keen to do business. We won't deal with them, but others may."

Other companies with a toe in this area include Hambro Assured (01772 340000), MGI Prime Health (01483 440550), Clerical Medical and Pearl, although not all offer straight LTC cover. Bupa has a similar policy linked to permanent health insurance. Scottish Amicable's European arm, based in Dublin, also sells LTC insurance.

■ Asset transfers to avoid fees Age Concern reports a sharp increase in inquiries from older people about how they can transfer their assets to relatives to avoid having to use them to pay care home fees if the need arises. This is a

thorny subject. Anyone who knowingly gives away assets, or sells them at less than their market value, in order to qualify for benefit may be considered guilty of "deliberate deprivation".

If the assets were transferred knowingly within six months of going into a home, or while already in a home, the authority has the power to recover any money it pays out from the recipient. If the transfer was made longer than six months previously, the donor may be liable instead.

Age Concern publishes a number of fact sheets on long-term care, including *Finding Residential and Nursing Home Accommodation* and *Local Authority Charging Procedures for Residential and Nursing Home Care and Preserved Rights to Income Support for Residential and Nursing Homes*. For free copies, send an SAE to Fact Sheets, Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

The Caring in a Crisis book series, also published by Age Concern, is for family and friends of an older person. *Finding and Paying for Residential Care* is particularly recommended. At £5.95, it is available from most bookshops or postage-free from Age Concern.

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## Time Ken and Eddie made up

Savers are hoping that the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England will heed the psychiatrists who, this week, suggested that infidelity need not be a threat to a relationship.

Although Kenneth Clarke may seem to have broken faith with the low-inflation ideal, those who want more from their savings would like to see him mend his rift with Bank boss Eddie George. Once the pair can agree to disagree but disagree to part, the next step in the reconciliation would be a joint decision to raise base rates, obliging building societies to improve their offers.

However, the response from the societies may not be as heartwarming as the Eddie and Ken rapprochement. Disappointed by the performance of shares in 1994, many investors have been shunning Peps and unit trusts in favour of the safety of the postal account.

In addition, any society seen as a likely takeover target is seeing speculative cash pouring in.

These good inflows mean that, if a rate rise comes,



**COMMENT**  
**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
*Personal Finance Editor*

societies will feel disinclined to be generous. As one senior figure commented yesterday, "We're getting plenty of money in at 5.25 per cent. This means that if base rates go up by 0.5 per cent, we'll put up investors' rates by, at most, 0.2 per cent."

However, such parsimony may be short-lived. Unit trust groups launching Corporate Bond Peps in the summer plan to offer yields of 8.5 per cent or more. Some, it is rumoured, have double-figure yields in mind. These new Peps will be aimed at building society customers who may not always be made aware of the risk involved in bond investment. Or, of the different ways of calculating the yield (the total return on the investment). For example, as we report on page 31, the

yield on another type of fixed-interest stock, a gilt, can be shown as 14.15 per cent, or as 6.95 per cent, depending on who is doing the sums.

The Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds is now seeking to curb the more exuberant marketing efforts of their members. Meanwhile the societies cannot afford to be complacent.

### Happy in defeat

THE aftermath of the court battle between the Independent Financial Advisers Association and the Securities and Investments Board was somewhat bizarre. The advisers professed themselves "delighted" with the verdict in the personal pension judicial review, although it had gone against them.

They had found consolation in one small concession: that advisers would not be required, while contacting clients who had been sold personal pensions, to take any step which would invalidate their professional indemnity insurance.

However, they somehow failed to mention the procedures put in place last year to ensure that a firm's cover would not be jeopardised while the advice given was examined.

But the advisers' flurry of self-congratulation could not conceal the identity of the true victors in the case, the tens of thousands of people who were persuaded to take out unsuitable personal pensions.

The ruling means that they are closer to compensation. But if the case had gone in favour of the advisers, the onus would have been on these clients to lodge complaints, so postponing their recompense until the next century.

Now we are nearer to resolving what the judge called without any exaggeration a "problem of exceptional magnitude".

## Shares in the ascendant

A rally in stock prices does not mean a lack of risk. Caroline Merrell reports



Favoured sectors include export-oriented manufacturers

THE UK stock market this week hit its highest level for 14 months. Many analysts believe that this could be the start of a sustained rally in UK shares and could be a good moment to invest for the medium to long term.

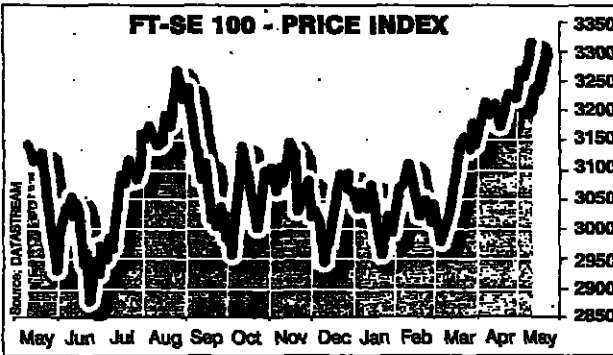
Over the past few months, UK companies have been announcing higher than expected profits and have been increasing their dividends substantially.

However, there are some risks — all analysts pointed out that any continued weakness in the pound could be detrimental, and most believe that interest rates and inflation will rise again slightly but will then level out.

The favoured sectors of the market include export-oriented manufacturers, blue chips and consumer companies.

UK companies which sell products predominantly in this country may not yet have felt the same sort of recovery. Analysts believe that the continued depression in the housing market is still holding back the return of the "feel-good" factor.

Barry Wolff, investment director at Mercury, said: "The important thing is that interest rates and inflation are not going to take off. The UK investor should continue to



market is still below its peak in February 1994. But earnings have been better than expected and dividend growth has been better. This may be the prelude to some kind of takeover activity. We predicted that the UK stock market would hit 3,500 by the end of the year. We are already more than half way there."

He also thought the threat felt by the City because of the possibility of the election of a Labour Government had receded. "The Labour Party is perceived as being a lot more business friendly," he said. "There was still some risk for those contemplating putting their money into the market. There may be a massive increase in interest rates."

Peter Tonkin, an investment specialist at Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, echoed the view. "We see the market being export and manufacturing led. The housing market is still depressed but there may be some recovery in that sector if there are tax cuts." He believes interest rates have reached a plateau.

Andrew Spencer, investment director at Flemings Investment Management, said: "We are getting a much higher growth in dividends than anticipated. Corporation UK is the healthiest it has been for the last ten to 12 years. A lot of companies are cash rich, which may lead them to start spending on new plants and machinery." He said much of the recovery in share prices so far had been in companies with strong exports. "The value may now lie in general manufacturing companies."

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## Wise buys to beat inflation

Three sectors  
that can help  
savers to keep  
pace. Caroline  
Merrell reports

Inflation has gradually been edging up over the past two years. It is now more than double its lowest point in June 1992. Last week's shock decision by the Chancellor not to put up interest rates immediately, coupled with the possibility of the election of a high-spending Labour government, is likely to increase the rate further.

According to economists, the slight fall in the inflation rate seen this week is only temporary, and it will begin to rise again in the second half of this year.

This may be the moment for private investors to protect some of their money against the ravages of inflation.

There are basically three ways. The first is to buy index-linked National Savings certificates, the second is to put money into a building society account that offers an interest rate linked to RPI.

Index-linked National Savings were first introduced by the Government 20 years ago in the mid-Seventies when inflation was running at 26 per cent. The idea was to protect savings, particularly those of old people, against inflation. Investors were paid a rate that was a few per cent above the rise in the retail price index and were given a bonus if they held the bond for five years or



more. Interest rolled up tax free. Initially, these National Savings products were only open to retired people, but now they are available to everyone. Eight index-linked National Savings products have been sold since the introduction of the concept in 1975, and there is currently about £8.3 billion of the public's money invested.

The eighth index-linked issue, which is available for investors, offers an interest rate which is 3 per cent above the inflation rate. However, this rate is staggered over five years, starting at 1.25 per cent in the first year and rising to 6.07 per cent in the final year. The rate is currently 6.5 per cent.

Anyone who cashes in their certificates in the first year will not benefit from the interest or the index-linking, unless the money was previously invested in National Savings. Anyone who chooses to invest in National Savings should note the maturity date of their certificates – the interest rate beyond maturity is only 0.5

per cent above the inflation rate. Many people are earning this derisory rate on their savings, simply because they are not aware of the need to reinvest to get a better rate when their certificates mature. One hundred pounds invested in the first index-linked product, the Retirement Issue Certificate, sold in 1975 would now be worth £563, while £100 invested three years ago in the fifth issue certificates would now be worth £110. These certificates pay a rate that is 4.5 per cent above inflation for five years. Indexation is accredited to accounts on a monthly basis at a level equivalent to the RPI of two months previously.

Index-linked gilts have some of the same characteristics of National Savings. However, they are traded on the stock market and offer the possibility of capital growth, or loss, if they are sold before they mature. If investors hold an index-linked gilt to its maturity date, the amount of money they will get back will be equal to the amount they invested plus indexation. The income the gilt pays is also index-linked. It is worth noting that the indexation is accredited eight months in arrears. Henderson Crothwaite, the broker, recommends the Treasury 2 per cent 2006 index-linked because it has the highest redemption yield out of the index-linked gilts at 2.88 per cent.

The index-linked account from Britannia Building Society also protect against inflation. The account, launched when inflation was at its lowest point, is a 90-day account that pays an interest rate of 2.5 per cent above RPI. Unlike National Savings, the interest rate is not staggered, but neither is it tax free.

### WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

#### Small investors 'excluded' from society merger benefits

From Mr John Richards  
Sir, I write to highlight the way in which the small investor is being excluded from the benefits of the imminent building society takeovers and mergers.

Is it not unfair that long-term investors who have not to have had £100 deposited on a particular date should receive almost nothing? To make a substantial payout solely to investors who happened to have over £100 invested on that day sacrifices fairness for expediency. "The

rich get richer and the poor poorer."

What logic is it that determines that an investor of two years' standing with £100 invested is so richly rewarded but an investor of 20 years' standing with £99 invested is excluded?

Given that the payments to be made reflect asset values that have been created over long periods of time by (principally) small investors, do the societies not have a moral obligation to distribute the benefits as widely as possible?

Surely a more equitable way of determining beneficiaries is to reward loyalty in addition to how much an investor had deposited on any particular day. A more appropriate definition of entitlement would perhaps be: "Any investor having at least £100 deposited or who has been a member continuously for not less than ten years."

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN RICHARDS,  
34 Padwell Road,  
Southampton,  
Hampshire.

#### Employers should help to cover the costs of mis-sold pension policies

From Mr Stephen Bragg  
Sir, In the letter you published on May 6, N. A. Warren asks where the compensation for those who were wrongly advised to leave their employers' pension schemes should come from. Should not part of it come from the employers themselves and their in-house pension schemes?

Both of these would otherwise undeservedly benefit by not having to support the better pensions that would have to be paid out to the transferring employees had they remained in the schemes.

If the insurance companies wrongly accepted premiums to provide inferior levels of pension, then it is surely equitable that they should repay these in full, with interest. If these repayments were then used to fund retrospec-

tively an employee's contributions to his employer's scheme, and if the employer added the contribution he would have paid had the employee remained in the scheme, the status quo should be restored.

The loss to the insurance company would then be limited to the costs of commission and administration of the mis-sold policies.

Mr Warren and his cautious investor colleagues would not be called on to fund the windfall gains that would have been made by employers and their in-house pension schemes as the result of employees misguidedly transferring out of them.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN BRAGG,  
22 Brookside,  
Cambridge.

#### Five weeks to clear a cheque

From Mr Andrew Podhalicz  
Sir, The British lead consultant of an African project was paid in dollars. The exchange-rate risk was passed down to sub-consultants and their self-employed personnel. As a result a US dollar cheque drawn on an account with Barclays Business Centre in Basingstoke was paid into an account with Barclays Business Centre in Swindon. The transaction took five weeks, 24 days expiring between when it was debited to the drawer's account and credited to the payee's. A £16 commission was charged, the conversion rate was two cents worse than in *The Times* and Barclays gained £40 interest. Yours sincerely,  
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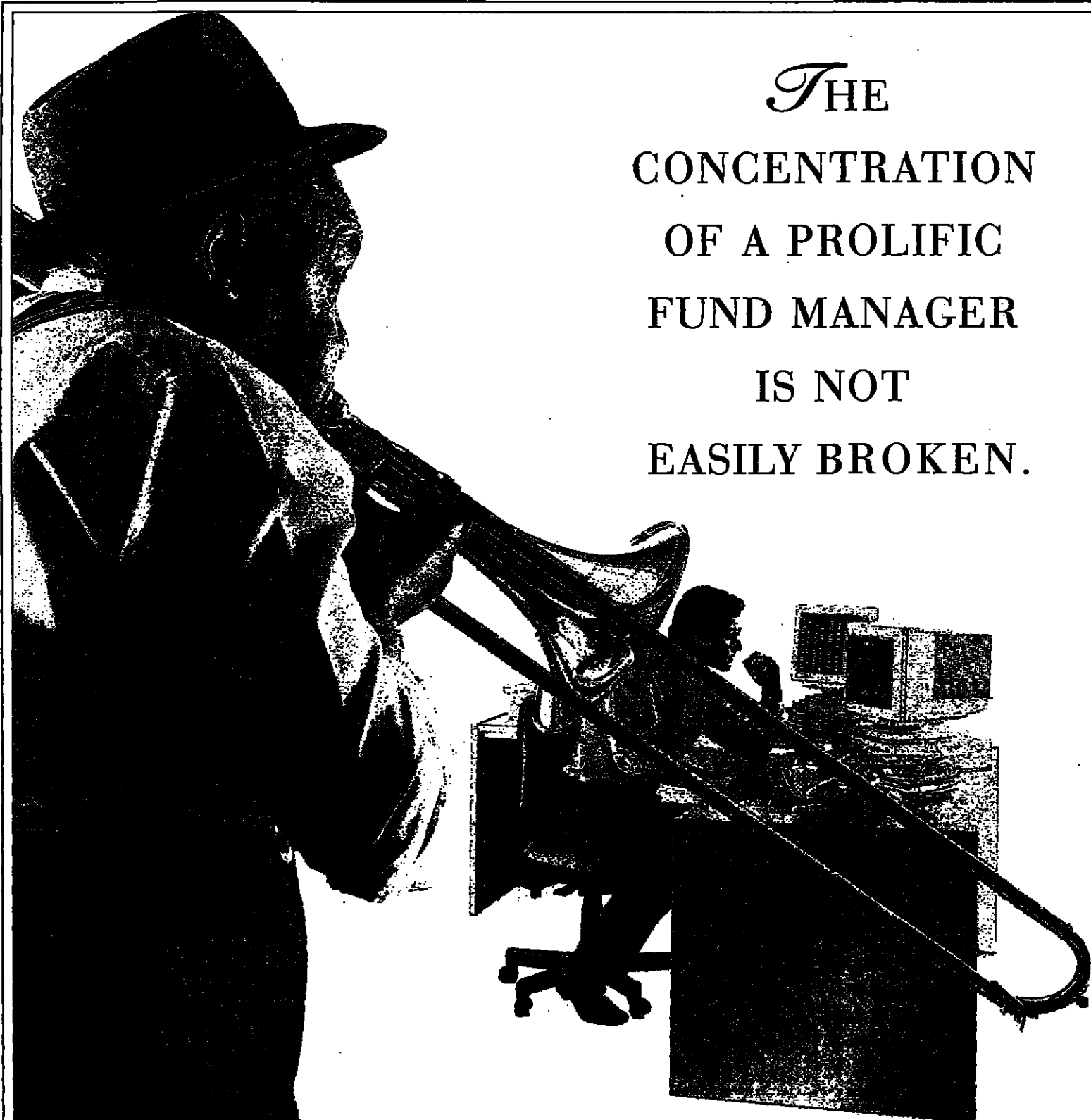
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# tion

cent above the inflation rate. Many people are earning a derisory rate on their savings, simply because they are not aware of the need to invest to get a better rate. Their certificates mature in a few months, but the first index-linked products, the Retirement Issue Certificates, sold in 1975 would be worth £563, while £100 invested three years ago in the first index-linked certificate would be worth £110. These certificates pay a rate that is 2.5 per cent above inflation for the first three years, then 2.5 per cent above the RPI for the remainder of the term. Indexation is added to the RPI of two months previously.

Index-linked gilts have some of the same characteristics of traditional Savings Bonds. They are traded on the stock market and offer the possibility of capital growth, or loss, if they are sold before maturity. If investors hold the index-linked gilt to its maturity, the amount of money they will get back will be equal to the amount they invested plus indexation. The index-linked gilt pays a fixed interest rate. It is worth noting that indexation is added to the RPI of two months previously. However, if you are sold before maturity, you will get back the amount of money you invested plus indexation. The index-linked gilt pays a fixed interest rate. It is worth noting that indexation is added to the RPI of two months previously.



Campaign for cash: President-elect Chirac will turn to the bond markets to help to deliver election promises

## When political words are world-class bonds

Election promises send global leaders scurrying to the gilts market, writes Robert Miller

Jacques Chirac, the newly elected President of France, faces a problem common to politicians the world over: how to pay for the election promises he made during his campaign. Like countless others, he will turn to the bond market. But he may find his wings have been clipped. President-elect Chirac's priority is to reduce unemployment, for which he will need considerable sums of money. European directives say, however, that member governments are allowed to borrow only so much. That said, bond market fears that President-elect Chirac may sail close to, or even past, those limits and be called to book are probably unfounded.

If carefully managed, government bonds, or gilts as they are more commonly called in the UK, provide benefits for both governments and investors. The former can raise money to pay for their promises from institutions, which are generally guardians for pension funds or unit trust managers, and from the public direct. The reward for investors who support the various government bond issues is to be paid a guaranteed annual rate of interest, underwritten by that particular country. Under most circumstances, they will also get back their capital when an issue matures.

Bonds are often associated with income seekers. The guaranteed nature of the annual interest seems more attractive than the vagaries of the equity market, where companies frequently cut their dividend payments to shareholders. But serious bond investors who want to spread their risk must use a unit trust. If you had

backed one of the 53 unit trusts in the UK Gilt & Fixed Interest category (there are another 50 trusts in the international sector), the statistics show that you would have fared better than if you had gone for a purely equity-based trust. The Micropal statistics for the year to May reveal that the average loss of UK Bond funds was limited to £1.89 for every £100 invested, while their international counterparts lost £3.50 for every £100. The Micropal

\$1.315 billion, respectively. At \$300 billion, the UK is ranked fifth behind Germany and France. But beneath the enormous international government debt market are a number of other bond issues. Local authorities issue them, as do large companies with their corporate bonds and even building societies with their permanent interest bearing shares. Corporate bonds are in the spotlight now as the Inland Revenue yesterday published its draft regulations for the new Corporate Bond personal equity plans. But, as Theodor Zemek, head of M&G's fixed-interest desk, which oversees the investment of £1 billion,

Ms Zemek's list of "high-grade borrowers" is headed by government bonds, British Telecom and Marks & Spencer. At double A, as opposed to triple A ratings, are Barclays Bank, British Gas and Anglia Water. At single A are Enterprise Oil, Bass and British Aerospace.

The security of a particular bond is of the utmost importance and one of the fears expressed by Ms Zemek and other PEP managers is that there are too few quality corporate bonds in the market.

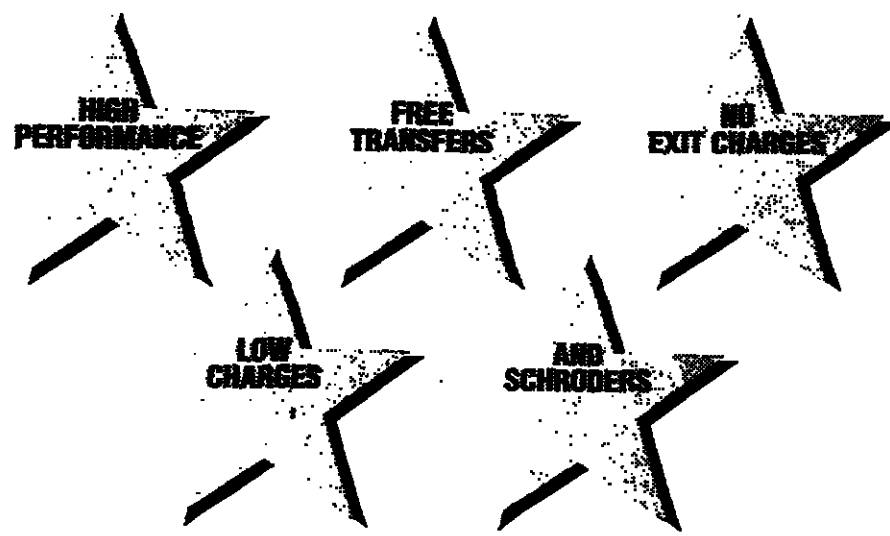
Yield (see Trust Watch, below) has become a live issue. Ms Zemek gives a warning that headline yield figures can mislead. The yield on a unit trust bond fund is calculated by taking the average rate of interest paid on each bond and dividing it by the average price at which the bond trades at in the market. Ms Zemek takes the example of the UK gilt 15.25 per cent 1996. This is a gilt that for every £100 of maturity value pays 15.25 per cent. This week it was trading at about 107.75p. In the unit trust market, the yield is 14.15 per cent, but the gilt market takes a different view. It says the proper yield is 6.95 per cent. So which is the more accurate? The market view prevails, says Ms Zemek.

And what are the prospects for bonds over the next 12 months? Ms Zemek concludes: "In the UK, market concerns centre on political worries and that a future Labour government could increase its borrowing *à la* Chirac. Worldwide, bonds in general should thrive as governments continue to combat inflation and create the ideal trading environment."

The top 14 countries had a bond market value at the end of April of \$5,754 billion

ping a corporate bond in a PEP does not guarantee success any more than backing government bonds does. The strategy to adopt towards bonds in general is to look at how the credit rating agencies, such as Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, rank them, and see how the prospective yield stacks up. Even if you get the research right, you can still be caught out by trading conditions on world markets. In domestic and European terms,

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\*Source: Micropal buying price to selling price with gross income reinvested since launch to 08.05.95. UK Enterprise Fund from 01.08.88 and from 01.05.90 +138.1%, 2nd out of 123; Smaller Companies Fund from 01.08.79 and from 01.05.90 +40.8%, 33rd out of 52; Income and UK Equity Funds from 03.01.72 (the earliest date for which Micropal figures are available) and from 01.05.90 +48.4%, 31st out of 96 and +94.8%, 1st out of 83 respectively. \*\*If any transfer is effected through a financial adviser, he may deduct his charge from the amount transferred. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fluctuate and cannot be guaranteed and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of and reliefs from taxation may change. The tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value depends on the individual circumstances of the investor. Exchange rates may cause the value of any overseas investment to rise or fall. Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, regulated by IMRO. Registered Office: 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 6AS.

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TRUST WATCH

UNIT trust investors will soon be in a better position to judge what return they can expect from their bond and income funds under new rules being drafted by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investments Funds.

The association has two working parties addressing the issues of how to show unit trust investors what their fund will pay out in income, after charges, and whether the trust they have invested in can truly be classed as an income fund. To ensure fair play, the association has called in specialists from City University's Business School.

Philip Warland, director-general of the association, said this week: "We want our members to calculate yields not on some basis that suits the market but rather by what it tells investors. We want them to be told what they will actually receive."

With the new Corporate Bond Peps due for a summer launch, the association wants to introduce clearer guidelines on how PEP managers promote their wares. Mr Warland said: "Unit trust managers should explain clearly where expenses incurred in running a trust are charged to capital rather than income."

The association's working party also wants to regrade trusts classified under the income heading. It wants true income funds to produce an income yield at least 10 per cent higher than that produced by the FT-SE All Share Index, currently yielding about 4 per cent. Trusts that do not match up to the new criteria would have to be reclassified.

ROBERT MILLER

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### ROUTE TO A REBATE

Tax year	LEL £	UEL £	Employer rebate %	Employee rebate %	Tax relief %	Incentive rebate %	Total rebate %
87/88	2028	15840	4.1	2.15	0.80	2.0	8.05
88/89	2132	15860	3.8	2.0	0.67	2.0	8.47
89/90	2236	15900	3.8	2.0	0.67	2.0	8.47
90/91	2382	16200	3.8	2.0	0.67	2.0	8.47
91/92	2704	20280	3.8	2.0	0.67	2.0	8.47
92/93	2808	21080	3.8	2.0	0.67	2.0	8.47
93/94	2912	21840	3.0	1.8	0.67	2.0	5.47/6.47
94/95	2984	22600	3.0	1.8	0.67	2.0	5.47/6.47

\* - If 30 years of age or older an incentive of 1% is payable, otherwise no incentive is payable.

## To be or not to be a member of Serps

A fresh complication has arisen in the tangled personal pensions affair: a strange case of pension plan holders who mistakenly thought that they had left the additional state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) but who were never removed from the scheme and have, as a result, missed out on the government inducement.

Those who move out of Serps into a personal pension receive from the State a payment made up of a National Insurance rebate, with tax relief and a small additional incentive. But this week, as revealed in *The Times*, it has emerged that at least 25,000 customers of Prudential, the largest pension provider, have not received this sweetener because they were not given the correct form. They have remained unwitting members of Serps, whose benefits are being further reduced in the Pensions Bill going through Parliament. For those who mistakenly believed that they were opting out of Serps at the first possible opportunity in 1988, the loss, in date, could be as much as £10,500.

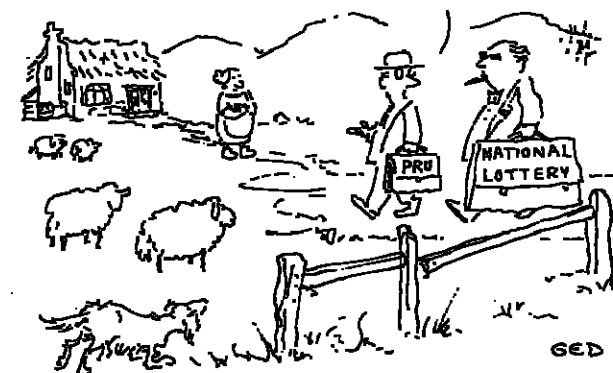
The Prudential is attempting to discover how many people are affected, promising that it will not only restore lost benefits but also make ex-gratia payments. Meanwhile, the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, is looking into the whole subject. The body's current investigation into personal pension mis-selling extends to Serps, examining cases where people may have been improperly advised to leave the state scheme, either because they were too old to make switching worthwhile, or earned too little.

At the same time, the Personal Investment Authority, which regulates insurance companies, cannot say whether the pension plan customers of other insurance companies have been denied their rebates but it pledges that, if any such instances came to light, they would be investigated.

Few of the five million employees who have left Serps will have checked whether they are getting the correct amount of rebate. Among them are three million people who are not making their own contributions to supplement the rebate. Although they should all be receiving their rebates, there is no certainty that the amounts given will be correct. To find out whether your rebate is correct, follow our guide.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Break it to her gently...the ex-gratia payment brought on a bit of a turn



### Check-up on opt-out

ANYONE who opts out of Serps should take the time to check whether the rebates credited to them are correct (Stewart Pike writes).

The sums are not as complicated as they seem, so long as you start with an understanding of how the rebates work. The contribution made by the Department of Social Security to your personal pension is made up of the three elements outlined below:

□ The rebate of employer's and employee's National Insurance (NI) contributions.

□ Basic rate income tax relief on the employee portion of the rebate.

□ The incentive rebate, or "sweetener".

The contribution payments that appear on statements are based on the "band" earnings. These are earnings between the lower earnings limit (LEL) at which NI becomes payable and the upper earnings limit (UEL). You pay no NI on

income above this. The tables show the different LELs and UELs that have applied since it became possible to opt out of Serps in 1988.

The table below gives an example of how the rebates are calculated, using the percentages laid down by the DSS.

The LEL and UEL are revised each tax year and the rebate percentage is revised every five years. Some pension companies provide a breakdown of the component parts that make up the total contribution. Other companies only give you the total contribution credited to the pension. The more information supplied on the statement, the easier it is to check the figures.

If you should find any errors in your contributions, contact your pension company or the DHSS at Newcastle on 0191 261 2341, quoting your NI number.

### SIZE OF THE REBATE

The rebate for a person earning £22,000 in 1991-92:

Calculate band earnings	UEL - LEL 20,280 - 2,704 = £17,576
Employer rebate	band earnings x 3.8% 17,576 x 3.8% = £667.89
Employee rebate	band earnings x 2.0% 17,576 x 2.0% = £351.52
Tax relief	band earnings x 0.67% 17,576 x 0.67% = £117.76
Incentive rebate	band earnings x 2.0% 17,576 x 2.0% = £351.52
Total contribution for year 91/92:	£1,488.69 (8.47% of band earnings)

## Advisers urge Lilley to take softer line

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is coming under pressure from his advisers to withdraw proposals that would restrict income support payments to cover mortgage interest for vulnerable groups of borrowers. These include the divorced or separated, single parents and carers.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) is expected to recommend that single parents and carers be exempted altogether from the restrictions. It will also advise Mr Lilley to keep rules that allow those divorced or separated, mainly women, to claim income support for business loans or other loans secured on their property while they were married. Many people borrowed against the security of their homes in the 1980s, when house prices were rising, then divorced or separated, leaving one partner with a large debt. Mr Lilley wants to abolish help for these people.

He will also be urged to delay his plans to pay no income support for the first two months to existing borrowers who lose their jobs or fall ill after the beginning of October.

The SSAC is understood to be concerned that private insurance policies intended to replace income support do not pay out for at least two months after a claim. This would leave even insured borrowers without cover for mortgage payments. Insurers say they will amend the terms of their policies to fit in with the new regulations but cannot do much until it becomes clear what these are.

The SSAC is expected to publish its recommendations next week. It received nearly 150 responses from lenders, insurers and housing advisers to the Government's proposals. Most were fiercely critical of the plans, designed to cut the £1.1 billion bill for mortgage interest payments. The Council of Mortgage Lenders has repeatedly given warning that the restriction of state help for out-of-work or sick borrowers will lead to more repossession and arrears.

Anyone taking out a loan after October 2 will get no income support for mortgage payments for nine months under Mr Lilley's proposals. Existing borrowers will get no help for two months and only 50 per cent of their interest paid for a further four months. The Government believes that borrowers should take out their own mortgage payment protection insurance instead of relying on the State. But many borrowers, including the self-employed, the unemployed and casual workers will be excluded because they are considered high risk. Single parents and carers, as well as those divorced or separated, would find it difficult or impossible to get cover.

SARA MCCONNELL

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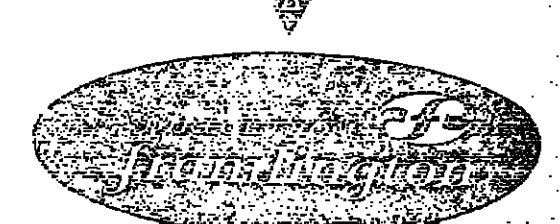
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The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) is expected to recommend that Lilley to keep rules that allow one partner to pay mortgage interest for the first 10 months to existing borrowers who lose their jobs or ill after the beginning of 1996.

The SSAC is understood to be concerned that private insurance policies intended to place income support do not pay out for at least 10 months after a claim. This would leave insured borrowers with no cover for mortgage payments. Insurers say they will need the terms of the policies to fit in with the new regulations but cannot do so until it becomes clear that these are.

The SSAC is expected to publish its recommendations at week 10 of the review. It has received nearly 10 responses from lenders, insurers and housing advisers. Most were favourable to the plans, designed to save £1.1 billion in mortgage interest payments to the Treasury. The SSAC is expected to recommend that the Government should allow insured borrowers to pay mortgage interest for the first 10 months after a claim. This would leave insured borrowers with no cover for mortgage payments. Insurers say they will need the terms of the policies to fit in with the new regulations but cannot do so until it becomes clear that these are.

# THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## Heavy reading to lighten your tax

The 1995-96 edition of the *Allied Dunbar Tax Handbook*, combines expert guidance and easy-reference.

Written by Anthony Foreman, a tax partner with Pannell Kerr Forster, the handbook includes tables and diagrams to illustrate various ways of reducing your tax bill.

The book has 26 chapters, ranging from the taxation of employees and the self-employed, to value-added tax and stamp duty. There are two chapters specifically focusing on opportunities to pay less tax.

One chapter concentrates on the anti-avoidance legislation, while another focuses on the organisation of the Inland Revenue. The third edition of this handbook includes a revised index. Published by Pearson Professional, it costs £21 and is available at most bookshops.

Any customers with the Northern Rock Building Society who have £100 or less in their accounts can expect to receive something in the post. The building society is writing to inform savers that it is abolishing discontinued and obsolete accounts to cut operating costs, and improve its service.

Which? Way to Save Tax 1995 (also £13.99), in the same series, helps you to work out your tax bill, describing tax-free income, outgoings that qualify for tax relief and any allowances that you might be entitled to. Tel: 0800 252 100.

## SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yly
3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
Instant Acc	Postal	£10,000	6.25	Yly
Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.75	Yly

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Fixed Rate Bond	31.5.99	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly
2 Year Fixed	2yr bond	£500	8.00	F/Yly
Investment Certs	Syr bond	£1,000	8.60	F/Yly
3 Year Fixed	1.9.98	£5,000	8.25	F/Yly

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
5 year	5 year	£5,300	8.50	F/Yly
5 year	5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
5 year	5 year	£9,000	7.75	Yly
5 year	5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

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## CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
£1,000	6.20	Yly
£2,000	6.25	Yly
10,000	6.45	Yly
20,000	6.75	Yly



**THE TIMES TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

THE TIMES

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# Small losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995		1994		1993		1992		1991		1990		1989		1988		1987		1986		1985		1984		1983		1982		1981		1980		1979		1978		1977		1976		1975		1974		1973		1972		1971		1970		1969		1968		1967		1966		1965		1964		1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		1950		1949		1948		1947		1946		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940		1939		1938		1937		1936		1935		1934		1933		1932		1931		1930		1929		1928		1927		1926		1925		1924		1923		1922		1921		1920		1919		1918		1917		1916		1915		1914		1913		1912		1911		1910		1909		1908		1907		1906		1905		1904		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899		1898		1897		1896		1895		1894		1893		1892		1891		1890		1889		1888		1887		1886		1885		1884		1883		1882		1881		1880		1879		1878		1877		1876		1875		1874		1873		1872		1871		1870		1869		1868		1867		1866		1865		1864		1863		1862		1861		1860		1859		1858		1857		1856		1855		1854		1853		1852		1851		1850		1849		1848		1847		1846		1845		1844		1843		1842		1841		1840		1839		1838		1837		1836		1835		1834		1833		1832		1831		1830		1829		1828		1827		1826		1825		1824		1823		1822		1821		1820		1819		1818		1817		1816		1815		1814		1813		1812		1811		1810		1809		1808		1807		1806		1805		1804		1803		1802		1801		1800		1799		1798		1797		1796		1795		1794		1793		1792		1791		1790		1789		1788		1787		1786		1785		1784		1783		1782		1781		1780		1779		1778		1777		1776		1775		1774		1773		1772		1771		1770		1769		1768		1767		1766		1765		1764		1763		1762		1761		1760		1759		1758		1757		1756		1755		1754		1753		1752		1751		1750		1749		1748		1747		1746		1745		1744		1743		1742		1741		1740		1739		1738		1737		1736		1735		1734		1733		1732		1731		1730		1729		1728		1727		1726		1725		1724		1723		1722		1721		1720		1719		1718		1717		1716		1715		1714		1713		1712		1711		1710		1709		1708		1707		1706		1705		1704		1703		1702		1701		1700		1699		1698		1697		1696		1695		1694		1693		1692		1691		1690		1689		1688		1687		1686		1685		1684		1683		1682		1681		1680		1679		1678		1677		1676		1675		1674		1673		1672		1671		1670		1669		1668		1667		1666		1665		1664		1663		1662		1661		1660		1659		1658		1657		1656		1655		1654		1653		1652		1651		1650		1649		1648		1647		1646		1645		1644		1643		1642		1641		1640		1639		1638		1637		1636		1635		1634		1633		1632		1631		1630		1629		1628		1627		1626		1625		1624		1623		1622		1621		1620		1619		1618		1617		1616		1615		1614		1613		1612		1611		1610		1609		1608		1607		1606		1605		1604		1603		1602		1601		1600		1599		1598		1597		1596		1595		1594		1593		1592		1591		1590		1589		1588		1587		1586		1585		1584		1583		1582		1581		1580		1579		1578		1577		1576		1575		1574		1573		1572		1571		1570		1569		1568		1567		1566		1565		1564		1563		1562		1561		1560		1559		1558		1557		1556		1555		1554		1553		1552		1551		1550		1549		1548		1547		1546		1545		1544		1543		1542		1541		1540		1539		1538		1537		1536		1535		1534		1533		1532		1531		1530		1529		1528		1527		1526		1525		1524		1523		1522		1521		1520		1519		1518		1517		1516		1515		1514		1513		1512		1511		1510		1509		1508		1507		1506		1505		1504		1503		1502		1501		1500		1499		1498		1497		1496		1495		1494		1493		1492		1491		1490		1489		1488		1487		1486		1485		1484		1483		1482		1481		1480		1479		1478		1477		1476		1475		1474		1473		1472		1471		1470		1469		1468		1467		1466		1465		1464		1463		1462		1461		1460		1459		1458		1457		1456		1455		1454		1453		1452		1451		1450		1449		1448		1447		1446		1445		1444		1443		1442		1441		1440		1439		1438		1437		1436		1435		1434		1433		1432		1431		1430		1429		1428		1427		1426		1425		1424		1423		1422		1421		1420		1419		1418		1417		1416		1415		1414		1413		1412		1411		1410		1409		1408		1407		1406		1405		1404		1403		1402		1401		1400		1399		1398		1397		1396		1395		1394		1393		1392		1391		1390		1389		1388		1387		1386		1385		1384		1383		1382		1381		1380		1379		1378		1377		1376		1375		1374		1373		1372		1371		1370		1369		1368		1367		1366		1365		1364		1363		1362		1361		1360		1359		1358		1357		1356		1355		1354		1353		1352		1351		1350		1349		1348		1347		1346		1345		1344		1343		1342		1341		1340		1339		1338		1337		1336		1335		1334		1333		1332		1331		1330		1329		1328		1327		1326		1325		1324		1323		1322		1321		1320		1319		1318		1317		1316		1315		1314		1313		1312		1311		1310		1309		1308		1307		1306		1305		1304		1303		1302		1301		1300		1299		1298		1297		1296		1295		1294		1293		1292		1291		1290		1289		1288		1287		1286		1285		1284		1283		1282		1281		1280		1279		1278		1277		1276		1275		1274		1273		1272		1271		1270		1269		1268		1267		1266		1265		1264		1263		1262		1261		1260		1259		1258		1257		1256		1255		1254		1253		1252		1251		1250		1249		1248		1247		1246		1245		1244		1243		1242		1241		1240		1239		1238		1237		1236		1235		1234		1233		1232		1231		1230		1229		1228		1227		1226		1225		1224		1223		1222		1221		1220		1219		1218		1217		1216		1215		1214		1213		1212		1211		1210		1209		1208		1207		1206		1205		1204		1203		1202		1201		1200		1199		1198		1197		1196		1195		1194		1193		1192		1191		1190		1189		1188		1187		1186		1185		1184		1183		1182		1181		1180		1179		1178		1177		1176		1175		1174		1173		1172		1171		1170		1169		1168		1167		1166		1165		1164		1163		11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## House of Lords

Law Report May 13 1995

Court of Appeal

## Material planning consideration

**Tesco Stores Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others**  
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Ackner, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches May 11]  
Where a planning obligation offered by a developer under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as substituted by section 12 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, related to a development, it was a material consideration within section 70(2) of the 1990 Act and regard should be had to it.

When a planning authority had regard to such an obligation the authority was entitled to give it such weight as the authority thought appropriate bearing also in mind its own established practice.

The courts were not concerned with the part the authority's consideration of the obligation played in the planning decision since such decisions were within the discretion of the planning authorities and the secretary of state.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Tesco Stores Ltd from a decision dated May 25, 1994 of the Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Slynn), whereby appeals from a decision dated July 7, 1993 of Mr. Nigel Macleod, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge in the Queen's Bench Division, by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the third respondent, Tarmac Provincial Properties Ltd were allowed.

Tesco gave notice of motion under section 288 of the 1990 Act seeking an order that the decisions of the secretary of state given by letter dated April 16, 1993 be quashed.

By that letter the secretary of state dismissed Tesco's appeal and refused to grant planning permission for a food superstore on part of the Henry Box Playing Fields, Station Lane, Witney and allowed Tarmac's appeal and granted outline planning permission for a food retail store at Mount Mills, Witney Way, Witney. Tesco maintained that paragraphs 7 and 8 of the letter the secretary of state dismissed Tesco's offer of funding for the West End Link road and in doing

so he failed to take into account a relevant consideration. The deputy judge made the order sought.

West Oxfordshire District Council, took no part in the proceedings. Mr Roy Vandermere, QC and Mr Christopher Kozlowski for Tesco; Mr Duncan Ouseley, QC and Mr John Hobson for the secretary of state; Mr Christopher Lockhart-Munneley, QC, and Mr Richard Drury for Tarmac.

LORD KEITH said that Tesco and Tarmac applied to the local planning authority for planning permission to build a retail food store in Witney, Oxfordshire, each on a different site.

There had previously been a local plan inquiry into certain proposed alterations to the development plan. One of them related to a proposed new road to the west of the town of Witney.

The town straddled the River Windrush. There was only one bridge over that river and as a result there was severe traffic congestion in the centre of the town which was a conservation area.

The proposed new road was the West End Link road, including a new river crossing and its purpose was to relieve the traffic congestion. Another proposed alteration to the plan was to provide for a major retail food superstore in the town centre.

The inspector issued a report approving the West End Link road and rejecting the proposal for a retail food superstore in the town centre. Tesco, Tarmac and other developers had taken part in the inquiry, opposing the town centre superstore and promoting the merits of their own sites outside the town for such a store.

The inspector did not make any formal recommendations about those sites but he held that development of a retail food superstore on one only of those sites would be beneficial. He expressed a preference for Tesco's Henry Box site.

He also expressed the view that funding for the West End Link road would be a benefit to the highway authority and he recommended a policy statement including reference to the district council's intention to negotiate with developers funding for the West End Link road or a major contribution to it, before a superstore went ahead.

Tarmac's application for planning permission was not determined by the local planning

authority within the statutory period, and so became the subject of an appeal to the secretary of state, who then called in Tesco's application for the Henry Box site.

In July 1992 a public inquiry was held by Mrs S. E. Heskeith. It was contended that without the construction of the West End Link road there was a fundamental constraint to the development of a superstore because of the traffic congestion situation, and that full private funding of £6.6 million must be provided. Tesco offered to provide the full funding for the West End Link road.

The inspector recommended that Tesco's application should be granted and Tarmac's appeal dismissed.

On April 16, 1993 the secretary of state issued a decision letter in which he rejected the inspector's recommendation.

He allowed Tarmac's appeal regarding the Mount Mills site and dismissed Tesco's application for the Henry Box site.

In paragraph 7 of the decision letter the secretary of state accepted that a new food store would result in additional traffic but thought that such an increase would be less than 10 per cent.

He took the view that it would be unreasonable to seek even a partial contribution from state agencies towards the cost of the West End Link road and that, since the offer of funding failed the test of Annex B of Circular 16/91, it could not be treated either as a reason for granting planning permission to Tesco or for dismissing Tarmac's appeal.

Paragraph 8 stated if he was wrong in that conclusion, he would conclude that the extent to which the funding should be taken into account, assuming that it had been taken account of, would be of such a limited nature that, even upon taking the benefit into account, the balance of the arguments would not be tipped so as to change his decision.

Tesco took proceedings against the secretary of state under section 288 of the 1990 Act, to quash the decision letter on the grounds that (i) the secretary of state had wrongly discounted the preference of the local planning authority for the Henry Box site and the local planning authority's acceptance of that and (ii) the secretary of state had failed to take account of

material consideration within section 70(2).

An offered planning obligation which had nothing to do with the proposed development, apart from the fact that it was offered by the developer, would plainly not be a material consideration and could be regarded only as an attempt to buy planning permission.

If it had some connection with the proposed development which was not to be dismissed as a mere attempt to buy planning permission, the decision was a matter entirely within the discretion of the decision maker and in exercising that discretion he was entitled to have regard to his established policy.

When it came to the secretary of state's decision letter, it was clear that on the fair reading he had not disregarded Tesco's offer of funding as being immaterial.

On the contrary, he had given it careful consideration and had weighed it up for its significance for the purpose of arriving at a planning decision.

LORD HOFFMANN, agreeing, added that the law had always made a clear distinction between the question of whether something was a material consideration and the weight which it should be given. The former was a question of law and the latter was a question of planning judgment, which was entirely a matter for the planning authority.

Provided that the planning authority had regard to all material considerations, it was at liberty, provided that it did not lapse into Wednesbury irrationality (Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation [1948] 1 KB 223) to give them whatever weight it thought fit or no weight at all.

A fundamental principle of British planning law was that the courts were concerned only with the legality of the decision-making process and not with the merits of the decision.

If there was one principle of planning law more firmly settled than any other, it was that matters of planning judgment were within the exclusive province of the local planning authority or the secretary of state.

Lord Ackner, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Berwin Leighton; Treasury Solicitor; McKenna & Co.

**Thorn EMI v Customs and Excise Commissioners**  
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment May 11]  
In the case of an indivisible supply of goods or services used both for business entertainment and to a measurable extent for other business purposes, the taxpayer was entitled to a partial credit in respect of the input value-added tax based on an apportionment of the tax between the entertainment and the other business uses.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from the decision of Mr Justice Turner on April 22, 1994 when he allowed an appeal by the taxpayers, Thorn EMI, on a point of law under section 13 of the Tribunal and Inquiries Act 1971 from the dismissal by a VAT tribunal of the taxpayers' appeal against an assessment to VAT.

Article 9 of the Value Added Tax (Special Provisions) Order (SI 1981 No 1000) provided that the supply to a taxable person of goods or services used or to be used by him for the purpose of business entertainment shall be excluded from any credit.

Mr Michael Kent and Mr James Holwell, for the Commissioners, relied on the decision of the Tribunal and Inquiries Act 1971 from the dismissal by a VAT tribunal of the taxpayers' appeal against an assessment to VAT.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the appeal raised a point of construction of article 9(1) of the

1981 Order which had the effect of excluding from credit as input tax, VAT incurred on the supply of goods or services used or to be used for business entertainment.

The question was whether, in the case of an indivisible supply of goods or services used both for business entertainment and to a measurable extent for other business purposes, the taxpayer was entitled to a partial credit in respect of the input tax based on an apportionment of the tax between the entertainment and the other business uses. Although the point was a short one, it had led to a difference of judicial opinion in the High Court.

In Customs and Excise Commissioners v Plant Repair and Services (South Wales) Ltd [1994] STC 233, Mr Justice Laws had held that no apportionment was permissible. His decision was applied by the VAT tribunal in the present case but Mr Justice Turner had decided to follow it. Their Lordships now had to decide which construction of article 9(1) was correct.

Value-added tax was introduced in 1973 pursuant to the provisions of the Finance Act 1972. Section 3 of that Act dealt with the deduction of input tax but made no provision for the apportionment of input tax where there was an indivisible supply of goods or services partly for business and partly for non-business use.

However, in National Water Council v Customs and Excise Commissioners [1979] STC 157, Mr Justice Neill had considered it legitimate to construe section 3 so as to imply a right to apportion the

input tax where goods or services were supplied partly for business and partly for non-business purposes.

Section 3 of the 1972 Act was repealed and replaced by section 14 of the Value Added Tax Act 1983. Confirming that Mr Justice Neill had correctly interpreted Parliament's intention, section 14(4) introduced an express provision for apportionment in those circumstances.

The 1983 Act and article 9(1) of the 1981 Order appeared to have been introduced, inter alia, with a view to the harmonisation of the European Community in compliance with the provisions of the Sixth Council Directive (77/388/EEC) (OJ 1977 L145) which came into force on January 1, 1978.

In Customs and Excise Commissioners v Plant Repair and Services (South Wales) Ltd Mr Justice Laws had held that, in the absence of express provision for apportionment between entertainment and non-entertainment business use, none could be implied.

Mr Justice Turner had refused to follow that decision in the present case and relied on the fact that, before its amendment in 1988, section 9(1) required an apportionment between the entertainment of overseas and the entertainment of domestic customers and that, once the principle of apportionment was imported into the article, it followed that there had to be apportionment between entertainment and other business use.

His Lordship did not find that argument persuasive. However, his Lordship had come to the

conclusion that a provision for apportionment between entertainment and non-entertainment had to be implied into article 9 for the following reasons:

1 To make the exclusion of credit dependent upon whether the goods or services were used exclusively for business entertainment frustrated the statutory purpose.

2 It was impossible to believe that Parliament intended to treat the supply of goods or services used for business entertainment less favourably than the supply of goods or services used for non-business purposes.

3 A right of apportionment was implied in National Water Council v Customs and Excise Commissioners in circumstances which were much less compelling than those of the present case.

4 The exclusion of all credit for input tax in the present case would deny the taxpayers the basic right of deduction guaranteed by article 17.2 and 17.3 of the Sixth Directive and would go beyond anything permitted by the derogation contained in article 17.6.

In his Lordship's judgment, therefore, article 9(1) of the 1981 Order should be construed as requiring an apportionment to be made between business entertainment and other business use and Customs and Excise Commissioners v Plant Repair and Services (South Wales) Ltd should be overruled.

Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

## No reasons duty over suitability of housing

**Regina v Kensington and Chelsea Royal London Borough Council, Ex parte Brillo**  
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Roch

[Judgment May 11]  
Local authorities were not under any general legal duty to give reasons for their decision that in a particular case the accommodation for a homeless person was suitable.

The Court of Appeal so held when, inter alia, dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Moriam Grillo, from the decision of Sir Louis Blom Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, given on December 1, 1994 whereby he dismissed her application for judicial review.

The applicant had sought to challenge the decision of Kensington and Chelsea Royal London Borough Council, dated July 13 and 27, 1994, that the accommodation offered to her and her family was suitable for occupation by them and that the council had discharged its duty to the applicant under the Housing Act 1985.

The applicant was offered a two bedroomed flat on the seventh floor of a council block and informed, in writing, that it was council policy to make only one offer of accommodation, that refusal would be considered by the council as fulfilment of its duty to provide accommodation, and that she could appeal against the offer.

The applicant, who suffered from arthritis, refused the offer and appealed against it on the ground that it was not suitable because of her medical needs. The council rejected her appeal stating that in its view the accommodation offered was suitable.

Mr James Bowen for the applicant; Mr Anthony Dimkin, QC and Mr Simon Bird for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that before the judge it was argued (i) that in the circumstances no

council could have reasonably offered the flat to the applicant as being suitable for her; and (ii) that it had failed to give any or any adequate reasons for its decision that the flat was suitable.

The judge rejected the first argument. On the second, he concluded that a local authority was under a duty to give reasons for rejecting an appeal where the issue was whether particular accommodation was suitable under Part III of the 1985 Act.

He held that although the failure of the council to give reasons amounted to a failure to comply with its statutory obligations and would in other circumstances have led to a quashing of the decisions, in the particular circumstances, it would not be sensible to quash the decision or to send it back to the council to give further reasons.

In the Court of Appeal similar arguments were advanced. Mr Sullivan, the council's head of housing needs, had to strike a balance between the applicant's needs and difficulties, serious though they were, and the needs and difficulties of other families on the list. It was for him to make an assessment between competing claims for housing.

That task had been entrusted to local housing authorities by Parliament and the court should be very slow to interfere in that process except in the clearest case. It was impossible to say that Mr Sullivan had acted unreasonably.

Was there a duty to give reasons? The judge concluded that there was a general duty to give reasons for decisions "in every aspect of the homeless persons legislation". The principle of fairness required the courts to impose such a duty and to supply what the judge described as the "legislative omission".

With diffidence his Lordship did not agree with the judge. There might come a time when English

law did impose a general obligation on administrative authorities to give reasons for their decisions. But there was no such requirement at present.

Such a duty might be implied in appropriate circumstances which would include the nature of the adjudicating process and the facts of the case.

In the present case, the procedure for appeals was a voluntary procedure instituted by the council itself. According to Mr Sullivan the relevant decisions were reached in line with the general policy of the council.

They involved a difficult balancing exercise. In areas where an acute shortage of council accommodation existed such decisions were likely to involve anxious choices between a number of households with competing claims to priority.

In his Lordship's judgment, it would be wrong to impose on local housing authorities any general legal duty to give reasons for their finding in a particular case that the accommodation offered was suitable.

The position might well be different where an individual decision was demonstrably out of

line with the housing policy of the relevant authority; in such a case the decision might be aberrant and require explanation.

In other cases an authority might wish to give reasons as part of a sensible and sensitive policy towards those who were seeking their help in that very important field. But his Lordship considered that the courts should be careful not to impose legal duties on housing authorities when Parliament had chosen not to do so unless exceptional facts of a particular case justified the interference of the court.

One might applaud the giving of reasons for an administrative decision as a sign of good and courteous administration but his Lordship was unable to accept the judge's dictum that there was "a general duty to give reasons for decisions in every aspect of the homeless persons legislation".

His Lordship did not consider that there was any such general legal duty or a duty to give reasons for the rejection of the appeal by the council.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Oliver Fisher & Co; Mr A. G. Phillips, Kensington.

## Form not deficient

**Baldwin v DPP**

A police proforma was not deficient where in informing a driver of his right to object to the giving of a blood sample under section 8(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, it had neglected to specify that that objection should be on medical grounds.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Curran) so held on May 5 when dismissing an appeal by case stated by John Baldwin against his conviction on Novem-

ber 21, 1994 by Huddersfield Justices of driving with excess alcohol contrary to section 5.

MR JUSTICE CURRAN said that the words of Lord Bridge of Harwich in DPP v Warren [1993] AC 319, 332F were not a statute but rather words to guide the lower courts in the interpretation of the statute. So long as the option given in section 8(2) was given fairly and properly so that the driver could make an informed choice the requirements of justice were ensured.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Curran agreed.

Solicitors: Oliver Fisher & Co; Mr A. G. Phillips, Kensington.

## Call to amend definition of 'violent offence'

**Regina v Ragg**  
Before Lord Justice Pill, Mr Justice Buckley and Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment May 5]

The offence of threatening to kill might constitute a violent offence within the terms of section 31(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and thus attract an extended sentence pursuant to section 22(2)(b) of the Act either where the prosecution could prove that the defendant intended death or injury to result from the threat itself, or where on the facts such a consequence flowed or was likely to flow from

the threat itself.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing the appeal of Kenneth Phillip Ragg against sentences of five years imprisonment passed on him at December 2, 1994 in Hereford Crown Court (Judge Geddes) following his conviction on October 7, 1994 of two counts of threatening to kill. Sentences of four years on each count concurrent were substituted.

Mr Robert Cowley, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

MR JUSTICE LAWS, delivering the reserved judgment of the court, said that "violent offence" was defined in section 31(1) of the 1991 Act as "an offence which leads or is intended or likely to lead, to a person's death or to physical injury to a person".

The offence of threatening to kill was not per se within that definition. In the ordinary way the threat of itself would not lead, or be likely to lead, to death or physical injury. There might, however, be cases in which a threat to kill would constitute an offence of

violence within section 31(1), although they were likely to be rare.

Such cases fell into two classes: first, where the threat was intended to lead to death or injury, for example in a case where the defendant's knowledge of the victim's health was delicate and he intended by making the threat that the victim should be so frightened as to suffer physical harm.

That class of case shaded into the second, which arose when the circumstances of the offence were such that the threat made it likely that death or injury would happen, and which would include, for example, a case of affairs in which a threat was made when the victim was standing on a balcony or precipice and was likely as a result to recoil and fall. Those were, however, special cases.

Before parting with the case, the court considered its right to refer to certain observations made in R v Richards (The Times April 14) as to the desirability of amending the definition of "violent offence" to include an offence which led to a reasonable apprehension of violence in the victim. With those words their Lordships agreed.

## Human Rights Law Report

## Seizure of aircraft carrying drugs was justified

**Air Canada v United Kingdom**  
(Case No 9/1994/456/537)

Before R. Gysvald, President and Judges F. Rozakou, F. Matscher, S. Walsh, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, S. K. Martens, R. Pekkanen and Sir John F. O'Hara  
Registrar H. Penfold  
[Judgment May 5]

The seizure of Air Canada's aircraft by the Customs and Excise and its release subject to payment did not amount to an unjustified interference with the peaceful enjoyment of possessions guaranteed in article 1 of the First Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights (Cmd 8969).

The European Court of Human Rights also held, by five votes to four, that the measures complained of did not involve the determination of a criminal charge and that the company's civil rights and obligations, as guaranteed by article 6 of the Convention, had not been violated.

Article 1 of Protocol No 1 provides: "Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law."

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way deprive the right of a state to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties."

Article 6, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides, inter alia: "In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and impartial tribunal."

nabis resin. That was the latest in a series of alleged breaches of security involving Air Canada.

On May 1, 1987 officers of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise seized the aircraft under section 139(1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 as liable to forfeiture under section 141(1) of the Act.

That stipulates: "... where any thing has become liable to forfeiture under Customs and Excise Acts."

"(a) any ship, vehicle, animal, container (including any article of passengers' baggage) or other thing whatsoever which has been used for the carriage, handling, deposit or concealment of the thing so liable to forfeiture either at a time when it was so liable or for the purpose of the commission of the offence for which it later became so liable ... shall also be liable to forfeiture."

Schedule 3 to the Act provides: "Where notice of claim in respect of any thing is duly given in accordance with [paragraphs 3 and 4] the commissioners shall take proceedings for the condemnation of that thing by the court and if the court finds that the thing was at the time of seizure liable to forfeiture the court shall condemn it as forfeited."

Later on the same day the commissioners returned the aircraft on payment of £50,000.

On May 20, 1987 Air Canada challenged the commissioners' assertion that the aircraft was liable to forfeiture. The commissioners accordingly initiated proceedings for condemnation of the aircraft under paragraph 6 of Schedule 3 to the Act.

The High Court did not accept that Parliament had intended the commissioners to have the power to forfeit in a case where, unknown to the operator, a third person had smuggled prohibited goods aboard an aircraft (The Times November 9 1988 [1989] QB 234).

leave to appeal to the Lords.

The application was lodged with the European Commission of Human Rights on May 2, 1991: it was declared admissible on April 1, 1992.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on November 30, 1993 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been no violation of article 1 of Protocol No 1 (nine votes to five) and that there had been no violation of article 6, paragraph 1, (eight votes to six).

The Commission referred the case to the Court on March 11, 1994.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

1 Article 1 of Protocol No 1

A The applicable rule

The seizure of the aircraft did not involve a transfer of ownership and the decision of the Court of Appeal to condemn the property as forfeited did not have the effect of depriving Air Canada of ownership since the sum required for the release of the aircraft had been paid.

The release of the aircraft subject to payment was a measure taken in furtherance of a policy seeking to prevent carriers from bringing prohibited drugs into the United Kingdom. As such, it amounted to a control of the use of property. It was therefore the second paragraph of article 1 which was applicable in the present case.

B Compliance with the second paragraph

The seizure of the applicant's aircraft and its release subject to payment were exceptional measures which were resorted to in order to bring about an improvement in the company's security procedures.

Those measures were taken following the discovery of a container, the shipment of which involved various transport irregularities, holding 331kg of cannabis resin.

Moreover, the incident was the latest in a long series of alleged

security lapses which had been brought to Air Canada's attention involving the illegal importation of drugs into the United Kingdom during the period 1982 to 1987.

The measures taken, therefore, conformed to the general interest in combating international drug trafficking.

In addition, it would have been open to Air Canada to have instituted judicial review proceedings to challenge the failure of the commissioners to provide reasons for the seizure of the aircraft.

In AGOSI v United Kingdom (The Times October 25, 1986; Series A No 108, paragraphs 59-60) the Court had held that the scope of judicial review was sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the second paragraph. It considered that there was no reason to reach a different conclusion on that point in the present case.

Taking into account the large quantity of drugs found in the container, its street value, as well as the value of the aircraft, the requirement to pay £50,000 was not disproportionate to the aim of preventing the importation of prohibited drugs into the United Kingdom.

Bearing in mind the above, as well as the state's margin of appreciation in that area, the Court considered that, in the circumstances of the present case, a fair balance had been achieved between the demands of the general interest of the community and the requirement of the protection of the individuals' fundamental rights.

Judges Walsh, Martens, Russo and Pekkanen dissented.

11 Article 6 paragraph 1 of the Convention

A Applicability

1 Criminal charge

No criminal charge had been brought and the criminal courts had not been involved in the matter. Moreover, the Court of Appeal had specifically rejected the argument made by counsel for Air Canada that section 141 of the 1979 Act was tantamount to a criminal provision.

In that connection, the Court of

## Strasbourg

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Count of m

Talented Walwyn-trained colt can throw down the gauntlet to Pennekamp

# Munwar to make impact on Derby scene

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

WITH ground conditions governing Celtic Swing's participation in the Derby, the search for a worthy opponent to Pennekamp has become all the more intense. We need look no further. Munwar has it in him to fill that breach, and he is confidently expected to advance his case in the Tripleprint Derby Trial at Lingfield Park today.

Even without the natural enthusiasm of his trainer, Peter Walwyn, Munwar's credentials speak for themselves. The bay advanced on a debut brimful with promise last season to dismiss eight opponents in the Hayes, Hanson

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PADDY'S RICE  
(4.30 Lingfield Park)  
Nb: Broughtons Turmoil  
(4.00 Lingfield Park)

and Clark Stakes on the last of his two starts. That Newbury contest has in the past proved an early playground to some subsequently formidable racehorses.

Both those juvenile outings came on easy ground. But Munwar, a colt blessed with the most rhythmic of strides, was always likely to thrive on faster ground. His full-brother, Hasteel, bounced off a sound surface, as did their sire, Kalaglow. And so it proved at Newmarket on his last start, when Willie Carson asked him for the minimum of effort to repel Flemensfirth and Elish.

Elish has since run with credit in the Kentucky Derby and Flemensfirth is to contest a group one race in France tomorrow. These pointers



Munwar, centre, beating Flemensfirth, right, and Elish in the Feilden Stakes at Newmarket last month. Photograph: Julian Herbert

alone offer ample testament to the quality of Munwar's Newmarket victory.

Walwyn, of course, trained Grundy to win the Derby 20 years ago. He is too wise a hand to be making comparisons at this early stage. Yet he

promises a more seasoned horse at Lingfield. "He went very nicely this morning," the trainer said yesterday, "and he is moving like a dream. He is coming to himself a bit more every day, although he is still not quite there in his coat. He

is going to get better and better as time goes by."

Looking ahead to Epsom, Munwar, Pennekamp and Celtic Swing are similar in their ability to lengthen off a fast pace. If they raced as individuals, they would all be vulner-

able to Pennekamp's turn of foot. With a collective effort, however, they could just as easily draw the sting from the French-trained horse.

"I just wonder what would happen to Pennekamp over an extra four furlongs," Walwyn

mused. "He was very impressive over the mile at Newmarket but I really don't know whether he will properly get 12 furlongs. Anyway, it's all conjecture at this stage. First, my horse has to come out and do his bit in the trial."

## Pitcro to master Bunting

LINGFIELD PARK

BBC1

2.00: Queenfisher improved when stepped up to seven furlongs last season. She has the form to win this but ran much too freely in the 1,000 Guineas six days ago and is best watched. Cheyenne Spirit disappointed recently after a winning return at Newmarket. However, her front-running tactics should set this up for Daring Destiny. Effective at this trip, Daring Destiny improved throughout last season and her sharp turn of foot can see her home.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.30: Pitcro is preferred to Bunting in a disappointing contest. My selection shaped like a staying filly when running out a narrow winner at Sandown last month. She had Asterita and Kshessnikaya well behind on that occasion and should confirm her superiority here. Bunting found the slow pace against her when labouring to justify odds of 5-2 on at Beverley recently. With only five runners, this race might easily develop along similar lines.

3.00 See left.

JULIAN MUSCAT

## Crow has plenty of choice

ALASTAIR CROW, four ahead in the point-to-point men's title race, still has 29 horses to choose from for the last month of the season (Brian Beel writes).

Although entered at Erv and Bredwardine today, it is likely that he will be at the latter as he is hoping to pick up a spare ride in the maiden. Equify Player runs in the open but has a hard task against Lost Fortune and Real Class. In division one of the restricted Cup believes his Remembrance has a tremendous chance despite falling at Gishburn last Saturday, while Friary Lad should go well in the second division.

Korbell and Scally Muir go to Maise more Park tomorrow, when nearest rival, Jim Tarry, could be in opposition in the PPOA on Lucky Christopher.

Tarry runs Fine Lace today at Kingston Blount and has the choice of Bright As A Button and Sunshine Manor in the confined. Sayright, injured earlier in the season, is likely to wait another week before his comeback but the stable will saddle course winner, Larry The Lamb, for Gi Chown to ride in the ladies'.

TODAY'S MEETING: Border, Cumbria, 3m north of town first race 1.00pm, Cambridge University, 3m, 4m, 5m, 6m, 7m, 8m, 9m, 10m, 11m, 12m, 13m, 14m, 15m, 16m, 17m, 18m, 19m, 20m, 21m, 22m, 23m, 24m, 25m, 26m, 27m, 28m, 29m, 30m, 31m, 32m, 33m, 34m, 35m, 36m, 37m, 38m, 39m, 40m, 41m, 42m, 43m, 44m, 45m, 46m, 47m, 48m, 49m, 50m, 51m, 52m, 53m, 54m, 55m, 56m, 57m, 58m, 59m, 60m, 61m, 62m, 63m, 64m, 65m, 66m, 67m, 68m, 69m, 70m, 71m, 72m, 73m, 74m, 75m, 76m, 77m, 78m, 79m, 80m, 81m, 82m, 83m, 84m, 85m, 86m, 87m, 88m, 89m, 90m, 91m, 92m, 93m, 94m, 95m, 96m, 97m, 98m, 99m, 100m, 101m, 102m, 103m, 104m, 105m, 106m, 107m, 108m, 109m, 110m, 111m, 112m, 113m, 114m, 115m, 116m, 117m, 118m, 119m, 120m, 121m, 122m, 123m, 124m, 125m, 126m, 127m, 128m, 129m, 130m, 131m, 132m, 133m, 134m, 135m, 136m, 137m, 138m, 139m, 140m, 141m, 142m, 143m, 144m, 145m, 146m, 147m, 148m, 149m, 150m, 151m, 152m, 153m, 154m, 155m, 156m, 157m, 158m, 159m, 160m, 161m, 162m, 163m, 164m, 165m, 166m, 167m, 168m, 169m, 170m, 171m, 172m, 173m, 174m, 175m, 176m, 177m, 178m, 179m, 180m, 181m, 182m, 183m, 184m, 185m, 186m, 187m, 188m, 189m, 190m, 191m, 192m, 193m, 194m, 195m, 196m, 197m, 198m, 199m, 200m, 201m, 202m, 203m, 204m, 205m, 206m, 207m, 208m, 209m, 210m, 211m, 212m, 213m, 214m, 215m, 216m, 217m, 218m, 219m, 220m, 221m, 222m, 223m, 224m, 225m, 226m, 227m, 228m, 229m, 230m, 231m, 232m, 233m, 234m, 235m, 236m, 237m, 238m, 239m, 240m, 241m, 242m, 243m, 244m, 245m, 246m, 247m, 248m, 249m, 250m, 251m, 252m, 253m, 254m, 255m, 256m, 257m, 258m, 259m, 260m, 261m, 262m, 263m, 264m, 265m, 266m, 267m, 268m, 269m, 270m, 271m, 272m, 273m, 274m, 275m, 276m, 277m, 278m, 279m, 280m, 281m, 282m, 283m, 284m, 285m, 286m, 287m, 288m, 289m, 290m, 291m, 292m, 293m, 294m, 295m, 296m, 297m, 298m, 299m, 300m, 301m, 302m, 303m, 304m, 305m, 306m, 307m, 308m, 309m, 310m, 311m, 312m, 313m, 314m, 315m, 316m, 317m, 318m, 319m, 320m, 321m, 322m, 323m, 324m, 325m, 326m, 327m, 328m, 329m, 330m, 331m, 332m, 333m, 334m, 335m, 336m, 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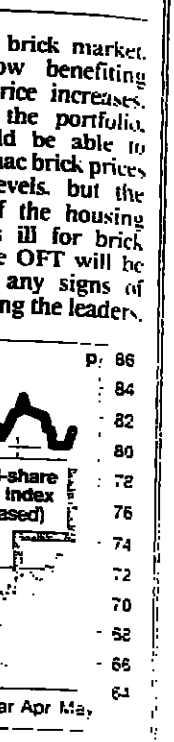
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# Coutts sails within reach of magical achievement

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

RUSSELL COUTTS and his Team New Zealand crew have only to win their race today against Dennis Conner aboard *Young America* and they have their hands on the America's Cup. Short of another last-minute change of rules, there does not appear to be much that Conner can do to change the tide of history.

To Conner and his dejected crew, the successive defeat in the best-of-nine races final has become a foregone conclusion, especially after the 3min 37sec bruising they received on Thursday when Conner and his yacht, *Black Magic*, sailed straight through their cover to chalk up their fourth win.

"I have never been in a race where I felt I had so little control over the outcome - and I've been in some uphill battles in my life," said Cayard, the helmsman on *Young America*, admitted. "You are witnessing the best performance by a challenger in recent history."

In fact, this New Zealand rout is the best by any challenger since the schooner, *America*, first won this in a race around the Isle of Wight in 1851. Even when Murray's *Kookaburra* 4-0 to win back the Cup from Australia in 1987, the margins of victory were nothing like as wide as this.

"We never guessed there would be this kind of discrepancy," Tom Whidden, Conner's tactician, said after losing the fourth race. "We never imagined the entire defence programme was so far off pace. I'm pretty surprised."

Whidden conceded there was nothing that Conner's crew could do to upgrade its borrowed boat in time to prevent a New Zealand victory.

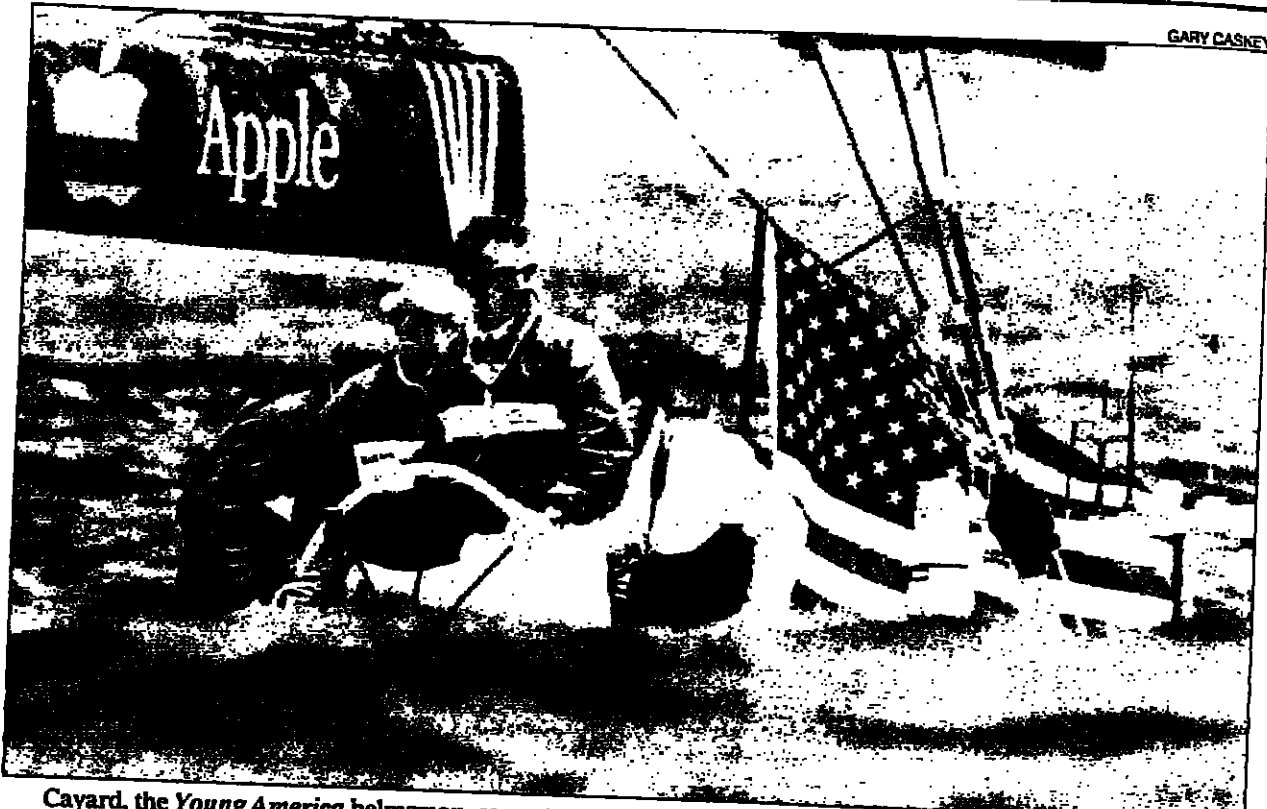
"They were focused when they arrived here last November and they have stayed at it's a great two-boat effort. Their edge comes from a whole bunch of things from the hull to how it relates to the aerodynamics of the rig and sails. The crew has done a good job, too."

"We knew that we were in trouble coming into this series and hoped that the switch from our own yacht, *Stars & Stripes*, to *Young America* would put us in the ball game. The margins would have been scary in the other boat."

The race on Thursday was settled within 15 minutes. *Young America* had established a two-boat lead soon after the start but then the wind shifted, and Coutts and his crew had expected, and within eight minutes they were eight lengths ahead.

From that point on, the New Zealanders drew further and further ahead, extending their lead from 1min 19sec at the weather mark to 158 at the leeward turn.

Should *Black Magic* complete the rout today, New Zealand will become only the third nation in the 144-year history of the event to hold the America's Cup.



Cayard, the *Young America* helmsman, cannot summon the guile to master *Black Magic* in the fourth race.

## WORCESTER

THUNDERER  
1.45 How's It Goin', 2.15 Kenmore-Speed, 2.45 Reve  
2.50 Rocco, 3.15 Ask The Governor, 3.45 Henry Cone,  
4.15 Smith Too, 4.45 Cove Hill.

GOING: GOOD

1.45 HINDLEBURY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (22.408; 2m) (15 runners)  
101 3011 HOW'S IT GOIN' 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 3012 WILKINS TALL 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 3013 KILNIE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
104 3014 DELAMORE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
105 3015 FALCON 7 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
106 3016 PEARL 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
107 3017 SCHWARTZ 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
108 3018 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
109 3019 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
110 3020 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
111 3021 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
112 3022 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
113 3023 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
114 3024 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
115 3025 SWEET FAMILY 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

2.15 RHODOS JUVENILE CHASE (23.088; 2m 4f 110yds) (11)  
101 0441 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 0442 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 0443 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
104 0444 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
105 0445 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
106 0446 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
107 0447 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
108 0448 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
109 0449 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
110 0450 BUTLER JUVENILE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

2.45 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD HURDLE (22.548; 2m) (15)  
101 1111 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 1112 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 1113 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
104 1114 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
105 1115 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
106 1116 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
107 1117 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
108 1118 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
109 1119 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
110 1120 SAHAR 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

3.15 MADRIDES FIVE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (22.088; 2m) (7)  
101 5051 FIGHT TO WIN 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 5052 FIGHT TO WIN 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 5053 FIGHT TO WIN 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
104 5054 FIGHT TO WIN 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
105 5055 FIGHT TO WIN 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
106 5056 FIGHT TO WIN 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
107 5057 FIGHT TO WIN 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

3.45 BLAKEDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE (23.134; 3m) (17)  
101 3026 ZAMBARA 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 3027 ZAMBARA 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 3028 ZAMBARA 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
104 3029 ZAMBARA 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
105 3030 ZAMBARA 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
106 3031 ZAMBARA 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
107 3032 ZAMBARA 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

4.15 RAMSDEN NOVICES CHASE (23.225; 2m 7f) (14)  
101 0207 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 0208 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 0209 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
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106 0212 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
107 0213 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

4.45 GALLOWES GREEN MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21.988; 2m) (22)  
101 0207 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 0208 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 0209 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
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107 0213 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

5.00 LIFTING GEAR & TOOL HIRE SELLING STAKES (21.700; 2m) (8)  
101 0207 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 0208 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
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5.30 CASTLE HILL CASINO APPRENTICES HURDLE (22.550; 1m 100yds) (8)  
101 0207 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 0208 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
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107 0213 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

8.00 UES BRIGHT BAY HANDICAP (23.210; 1m 5f 110yds) (10)  
101 0207 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 0208 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
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107 0213 TOUCH OF WHITE 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

8.30 GOODYEAR HANDICAP (23.288; 6f) (11)  
101 1241 THE OLD CHIEF 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
102 1242 THE OLD CHIEF 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
103 1243 THE OLD CHIEF 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
104 1244 THE OLD CHIEF 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
105 1245 THE OLD CHIEF 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90  
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107 1247 THE OLD CHIEF 11 (D) P. M. 12-10-90

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# Revitalised Aberdeen scramble for safety

FEAR brings its own euphoria. Falkirk's ground, Brockville, will surrender two-thirds of its 12,000 capacity this afternoon to the 8,000 Aberdeen supporters who snapped up tickets.

Hitherto, the Pittodrie club has only swept south with such backing when en route for a cup final. Today's attraction is just as intense but far darker. Aberdeen require a point to ensure that they are not automatically relegated from the Scottish premier division.

It is claimed that a near-death experience whets a person's appreciation for life. Roy Aitken's team appear to bolster the theory. Their demise was almost taken for granted until, two weeks ago, they abruptly started to win. Victories over Heart of Midlothian and Dundee United have been revitalising. Last Saturday's points were secured in an atmosphere of revivalist frenzy. Like a long-winded tale, however, the entire Scottish season is reluctant to

**Kevin McCarron ponders the permutations that will resolve a fraught battle to escape relegation from the Scottish premier division**

reach its punchline. Despite the recent feats, Aberdeen have been allocated a further quantity of anxiety.

Billy Dodds, scorer of three goals in the past two matches, is suspended, as is the mid-field player, Peter Hetherston. The team will also lack Eoin Jess, who has injured an ankle. All of these factors mean that the securing of a draw at Brockville is no perfunctory exercise.

The minds of managers and directors at three Scottish clubs team with permutations. Dundee United are at the foot of the table with 36 points, two behind Aberdeen. Even if the Tannadice club beat Celtic at home today, they will still be relegated should Aberdeen even draw, since their goal difference is inferior.

Aitken's team will enter a play-off with the runners-up in the first division should they remain second from bottom. They do, however, have a chance of ensuring absolute safety by overhauling Hearts, who, following a calamitous run of form, are only two points in front of them and must today meet Motherwell at Tynecastle.

It is impossible to tell whether the Fir Park club, having clinched a UEFA Cup place, will be menacing or somnolent. The need to make such calculations is resented by supporters in Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. With only four clubs, Scotland can hardly feel easy with the idea of representatives from three of them being lost to the premier division.

Aberdeen, Heart of Midlothian and Dundee United are, in different ways, all victims of a failure of long-term planning. At Pittodrie, Willie Miller, the greatest player in the club's history, was installed as manager on a wave of popular sentiment, even though he had virtually no experience in that line of work. The decision was unfair to him and harmful to the club.

Miller spent comparatively large sums in the transfer market with variable results and it was never easy to make out the lineaments of the side he believed was being built. When results slithered into decline, the manager seemed bound to break the habit of failure which had developed in too many minds.

Aitken's contribution, as caretaker, in restoring competitiveness should ensure he receives the job on a full-time basis, no matter the outcome at Brockville. He is forced to include a number of fringe players in his squad today.

TABLE															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ranking	35	20	12	7	59	24	66		35	20	12	7	59	24	66
Mathewson	35	14	12	9	50	28	58		35	14	12	9	50	28	58
Hibberton	35	11	7	7	47	26	50		35	11	7	7	47	26	50
Geog	35	10	18	7	38	33	48		35	10	18	7	38	33	48
Falkner	35	12	12	11	49	45	43		35	12	12	11	49	45	43
Kingsmead	35	11	10	14	38	46	45		35	11	10	14	38	46	45
Went	35	12	13	10	38	49	43		35	12	13	10	38	49	43
Hobbs	35	11	11	12	40	51	40		35	11	11	12	40	51	40
Alford/Em	35	9	11	15	41	46	38		35	9	11	15	41	46	38
Dunroed Ltd	35	9	9	17	40	55	36		35	9	9	17	40	55	36



## CRICKET 38

FAIRBROTHER BEATS  
PAIN BARRIER TO  
FRUSTRATE CHAMPION

## SPORT

SATURDAY MAY 13 1995

## GOLF 39

O'MALLEY DEFIES  
COLD TO BLAZE  
TRAIL AT ST MELLION

Final analysis must reveal no surrender in battle for Premiership supremacy

# Blackburn and United bank on honest toil

ANYONE who still believes money cannot buy success in football has one day left to nurse that fond, old-fashioned notion. By 5.45pm tomorrow, either Manchester United or Blackburn Rovers — the club with the biggest turnover or the club with the wealthiest benefactor — will be the champions of England.

On the final sabbath of a nine-month season, all the sweat and toil, all the plotting and the hope, is distilled into 90 minutes. There are three ways in which the FA Cup Premiership trophy can be won or lost in an afternoon. If Blackburn win at Liverpool, nothing that Manchester United achieve in London against West Ham United can wrench the trophy from them. It would be the first time for 81 years that the Rovers ruled the land.

But if Blackburn draw or lose, and Manchester United win, then United would be crowned champions for the third consecutive season. This could be on goal difference, the difference wrought by United's 9-0 victory over Ipswich Town two months ago. But, as they strain heart and nerve and sinew in the final matches, let us hope above all else that the integrity of the English game is not questioned by the final whistle. We want no excuses, no descriptions of "deck-chair" attitudes hanging over Anfield or Upton Park tomorrow. We are entitled, after such a season of sleaze and dishonesty in the national game, to demand that, on the field where our reputation is at least committed, honest, competitive, that nothing remotely fraudulent may decide the destiny of a championship trophy that comically needs to be in two places at once.

There is secrecy at Premiership headquarters about where the real championship cup lies this weekend. The odds, of course, favour Anfield, which would mean that if indeed there is a final twist in the tortuous tale, United's players would be asked to drink real champagne from replica silverware.

But that is not the most feared outcome. It is that Liverpool, of all teams, have aroused suspicion about the way they compete, suspicious that, since qualifying for Europe by winning the Coca-Cola Cup, they have been less than professional in surrendering points to teams not remotely comparable to them. A week ago, the stench rose when they lost to Aston Villa, effectively arranging the outcome of the relegation places. It was that honest man, Ron Evans, the Liverpool manager, who described his team's acquiescence as "a deck-chair day." He observed that a streaker had provoked more movement than his Liverpool team, and Steve Staunton, the Villa captain and the former Liverpool defender, injudiciously stated that Liverpool had not tried a leg.

If that were to happen tomorrow, if things were made easy for the Blackburn

Rob Hughes, football correspondent, looks at the showdown for the title and says football has to emerge unscathed in a season of sleaze

manager, Kenny Dalglish, to win the championship in what was for many seasons his spiritual home of Anfield, the damage to English reputation would be irreversible. And yet Alex Ferguson, a fellow Glaswegian and an often coarse verbal opponent of Dalglish, had turned almost a prophet of dishonour on March 19.

His United team had walked off the field defeated 2-0 by Liverpool, and Ferguson had said sourly that he "wouldn't bank on Liverpool" showing similar determination to beat Blackburn if the championship depended on it on the final Sunday.

Evans reacted as he was expected. "It is totally out of order for people to ask me if we felt we were doing any favours for Blackburn today," he said. "We shall play the

same way when they come here as we did this afternoon."

Evans, clearly, comes from a different era, a different Liverpool school of pride, to some of the players he hires. The insinuations have not been deflected by the fact that Liverpool have been weakened by injuries to Neil Ruddock, Rob Jones and Stig Inge Bjornebye. There are also doubts that Mark Wright and Ian Rush will be fit to compete tomorrow, yet the youngest of Liverpool's players, Jamie Redknapp, reacted yesterday to all the talk of Liverpoolians — the spectators as well as some at the club — desperately wanting Blackburn to win. In fact, it is not Blackburn that they favour, it is Manchester United that they dislike.

"We've got to be professional about it," insisted Redknapp. "A lot of people are saying we'll let them win. You can't go out and let a team win, it's virtually impossible

... you can't go out and lie down in front of millions."

But let us assume that sporting values prevail, that Liverpool test Blackburn to the limit, and that West Ham, despite their relief at safeguarding Premiership status, with a 3-0 win over Liverpool on Wednesday, also run Manchester as far as they can.

Let us assume that, whichever way it goes, the Scottish mischief, the comments as barbed as a thistle between Dalglish and Ferguson, give way to a genuine salute that, red or blue, the champion is the one who withstood to the last the remorseless demands of the season.

"I could not be wholly satisfied with winning the Premiership if my team had played like Blackburn all season," Ferguson said two weeks ago. That, and other ripostes from Dalglish, had been aimed, across east Lancashire, at needling the other camp.

When tomorrow comes, United, with all their injuries and with the recent resurgence injected by youth, will seek victory built around Gary Pallister, the only United player who has withstood every twist and turn of the season. Blackburn will ask Alan Shearer, also the only ever-present, to score one more time, to equal the 34-goal Premiership record set last season by Andy Cole, then of Newcastle United.

The managers will shout themselves hoarse trying to breathe energy, commitment, into tired players. But as long as the opponents fire back, as long as there is no suggestion of a team winning the ultimate prize as if they were firing on the Red Cross, then we should be satisfied. The battle order could have come from Lord Kitchener with the words he spoke to the British expeditionary force in 1914: "We have to perform a task which will need your courage, your energy, your patience. And your honesty, please."

Trophy secret ..... 1  
Final countdown ..... 1  
Arsenal's test ..... 43



Ferguson, the United manager, feels the pressure during his team's victory over Southampton while Dalglish, below, urges on his Blackburn players

## Managers remain relaxed

By Peter Ball

KENNY Dalglish and Alex Ferguson, the two managers trying to win English football's biggest prize tomorrow, yesterday allowed other games to claim their attention. Dalglish concentrated his thoughts on the afternoon's big match — a 20 minutes-a-half game between the Blackburn coaching staff and the Press. Alex Ferguson went to a lunch with his FA Cup Final opposite number, Joe Royle.

If both were relaxed, the big games kept intruding, with Dalglish taking Blackburn back to the club where he won nine trophies as player and manager with the championship in his grasp. He proclaimed the Merseyside club as his role model.

"Liverpool have been the people who set the example on and off the field for the last 30 years," he said, "and if we've reflected what they have done in any way, shape or form we should be a bit proud of that. It is an insult to even suggest that Liverpool football club would not try. We are one game away from the championship, and we might not even have to win that game."

United, by contrast, know there is only one avenue for them, and that is to win at Anfield. But after looking out of the race a few weeks ago, and with Roy Keane fit again, Ferguson was relishing United's late run.

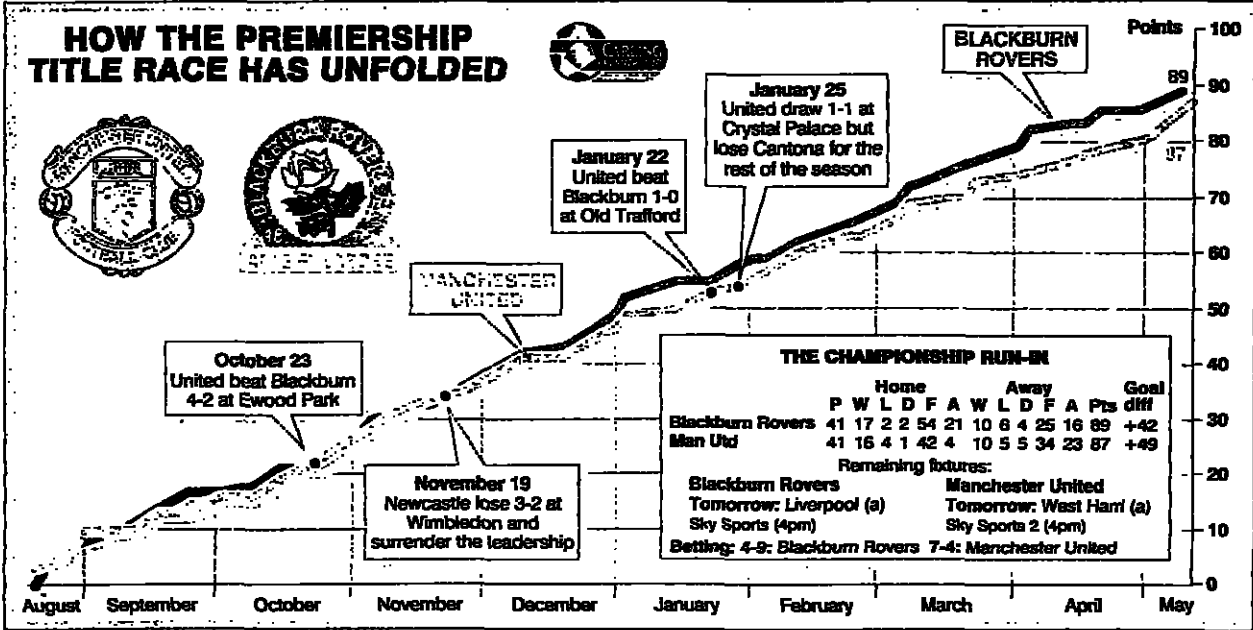
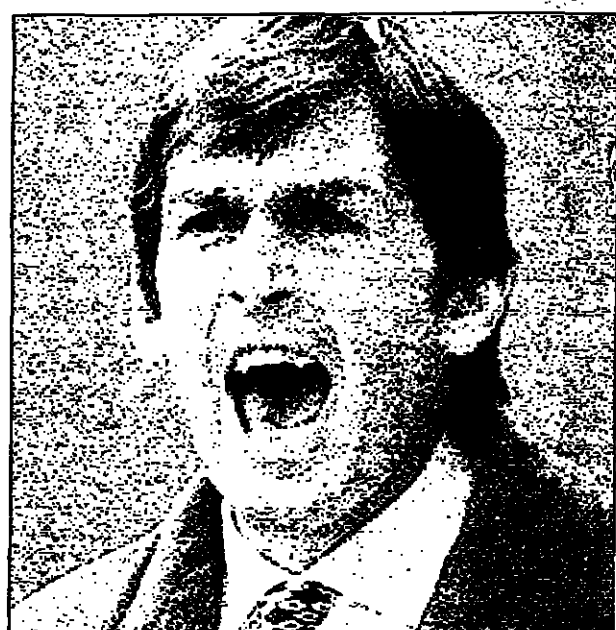
"We know it will be a tremendously volatile situation, but we're absolutely delighted to be in this position on the last game of the season," he said. "From a position of having no chance a few weeks ago, we are now in a position where we have a chance. If we win and they draw, we win the championship."

Ferguson was full of praise for the performances of his team in getting back into the race. "In the last few weeks our players have shown fantastic determination to stay in there," he said. "No matter what team I've picked, they've played fantastic football, shown great commitment and determination, and I've nothing but praise for them. No matter what happens on Sunday, they've proved it is not easy to take the championship off them."

"They have grown up together as a team, and they bring it out when it is required, which they have had to do in the last few weeks. It surprises me how they have turned it round given the number changes I've had to make. It is remarkable."

"The whole squad has gone up in my estimation in the last few weeks. We know they are Manchester United players, they have the temperament, the character, the determination and the skill to play for this club."

That could not be said for the team wearing United shirts yesterday afternoon. Blackburn staff XI won 16-0, Dalglish chipping in with a hat-trick.



## Jordan picks the winner in numbers game



Jordan: back to his best in number 23

The mystery has already been dubbed Numbergate and been the subject of a viewers poll on the main Chicago television station. Yesterday, the Chicago Tribune carried a "you dress Mike" cut-out complete with fashion accessories. When they talk of basketball being a numbers game, this was hardly what anyone had in mind.

But predictions before the third game of the Orlando-Chicago play-off series for the National Basketball Association championship had nothing to do with the final score. They concerned just one man and two numbers. Would Michael Jordan wear jersey number 23 or jersey number 45? A host of interest groups, ranging from the official NBA manufacturers and NBA officials through to sports

stores, irate mothers and downcast children, waited for the revelation. Forget the lottery, these were real numbers.

To understand their significance, you have to go back to Jordan's retirement two years ago when his famed number 23 Chicago Bulls jersey was raised to the roof of the Chicago Stadium to hang as a reminder of probably the greatest basketball player who ever lived. Like Pele's 10 shirt at Santos, the number was retired and even Jordan himself refused to wear it again on his return to basketball in March after 17 months away. It was, he said, a token of respect to his late father, who had last seen him play in that number. Instead, Jordan adopted 45, the number he had worn during an unsuccessful flirtation with minor league baseball.

Andrew Longmore on the row caused by a basketball superstar changing his jersey

Move forward to the second game against the Magic, a series which pitted Jordan against Shaquille O'Neal, the Shaq, widely hyped as Jordan's natural successor. The Magic had won the first game and Jordan had flopped. "Stopping number 45 was a lot easier than stopping number 23," Magic's Nick Anderson had said afterwards, voicing the opinion of many who thought Jordan 45 was not as good as the previous vintage. Jordan clearly agreed. Without even telling his team-

mates, he donned his old 23 for that second game, tongue-tied the poor announcer, sending the nation's children, dutifully clad in 45s at \$37 a piece, into shock and halting production of 45s at the factory of Champion, the NBA licensee, which was at full throttle in anticipation of a merchandising bonanza. Ten thousand number 45 jerseys sold in two months in Illinois.

But the change worked. Driven by his demons, Jordan scored 38 points, the Bulls won and sports stores in Chicago sold their remaining stock of 45s to investors. Only the NBA and a few mothers, wanting to swap 45s for 23s and jamming Bulls switchboards, were not so happy.

The NBA yesterday fined the Bulls \$25,000 for not notifying them of the change and issued a statement saying

further punishment would follow if Jordan continued to wear 23. To add to the confusion, in a separate conflict between sport and fashion, Jordan wore white leather-and-patent trainers, prototypes for the latest Nike Air Jordans due out at Christmas (\$125), instead of the black shoes worn by the rest of his team and was fined \$5,000, roughly the sum Jordan banks for every five minutes on court.

Jordan has been strangely silent all week, but the odds last night were on a permanent return to 23. His people seem to want it. The tv poll favoured 23 by 72 per cent to 28 per cent. Champion have taken no chances. They are manufacturing blank red jerseys and will print the right number when Jordan has made up his mind.

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Surfing? Climbing?  
with it in the Sport  
NO NONSENSE EVER





'She's Out'  
at the  
wheel of  
a Range  
Rover  
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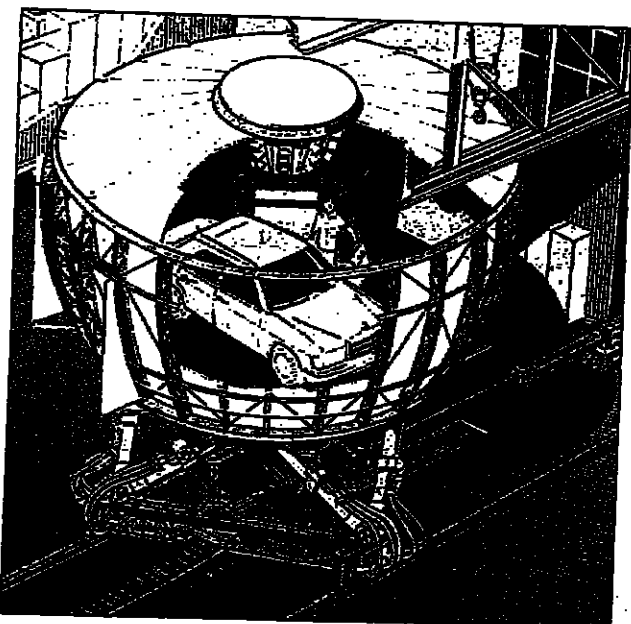
Enjoy the  
challenge  
to win  
a touring  
holiday  
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THE TIMES  
Lease Plan 7  
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1995

SATURDAY MAY 13 1995

Kevin Eason on a remarkable electronic brain designing the transport of tomorrow

## 2001 - an odyssey to the supercar



The projection dome, with its six colour video projectors, in which car and driver motor into virtual reality

The snow was beating down on the windscreen as the car slewed from side to side until there was no escape from the inevitable crash.

The sound of splintering metal in an £80,000 car would bring even the hardest motorist out in a cold sweat of fear. The crash, though, was not real - just a figment of a sophisticated electronic imagination. The cabin of the S-class Mercedes looked real enough, but there was no engine, no wheels and no road to drive on, only a Sega-type virtual reality display on a 180-degree television screen and a machine which acted and felt like a real car. Even the weather was thought up by computer.

The Mercedes-Benz simulator is the arcade game addicts' ultimate dream: the car loaded into a "flying saucer", a five-tonne dome on stilts which can recreate every street scene down to the whoosh of wind noise over the windscreen and the howl of a January gale. Dip the throttle and the S-class is shooting along a cobbled street, swishing past pedestrians, its wheels apparently dancing with each crevice in the road. Except the cabin of this S-class is contained inside its computerised womb, insulated from the outside world, the bumps and bangs recreated by the six hydraulic legs of the huge dome.

Each movement is calculated by an electronic brain checking the driver's actions every six milli-seconds, for the computer is not just watching the car, it is watching the driver, too. This is the modern face of Hal, the brain at the centre of the Jupiter-bound spaceship in Stanley Kubrick's 2001, A Space Odyssey, that not only talks to machines but studies every movement and response in the driver.

Every blink of the eye is

measured, every heartbeat counted, every tiny rise in blood pressure noted until the computer has built up a profile so accurate, it probably knows more about the driver than he understands about himself.

Mercedes engineers concluded that no matter how clever the automatic equipment on board a car, it was only as good as the driver. Most, for example, never press the brakes to the limit even in the direst emergency, which means they never make the best use of anti-lock brakes.

They also discovered that far from being alerted by the squeal of brakes in an emergency, the noise simply distracted drivers and slowed their reactions to a skid. Strangely, drivers reacted immediately to a gong warning that they were out of control.

'Every  
blink of  
the eye is  
measured'

The Mercedes boffins realised the reaction to the gong meant they could devise some form of early warning system that could save hundreds of drivers from crashing. As "Hal" - housed in an unprepossessing factory on the outskirts of Berlin - watched its human guinea pigs, engineers became aware that drivers suffer from three problems: they panic and oversteer when they lose control, don't brake hard enough and take too long thinking about what to do.

A loud warning signal would do more to alert drivers to danger than relying on their "feel" for the car's movement. Even the daftest driver - doped on drink or drugs - can be checked in complete safety, able to crash a hundred times without fear of injury or damaging a luxury car.

The benefits of simulators for training pilots have long been known but their use in the motor industry is in its infancy. Dr Michael Kramer, director of Daimler-Benz research, says research institutions from around the world,

including America's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, have used the simulator to study the effects of drugs, alcohol and lack of sleep on drivers.

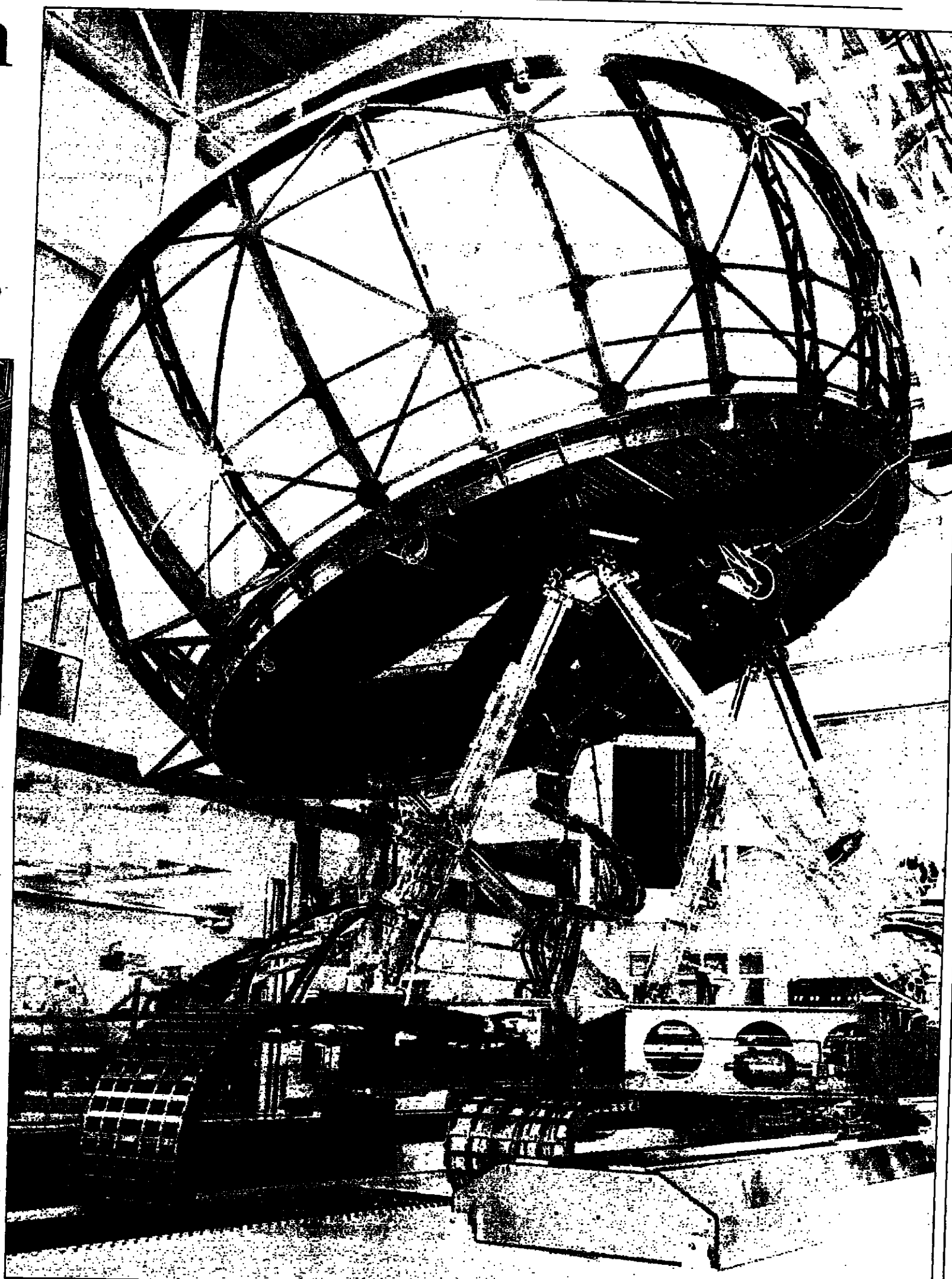
By melding the feedback from driver reaction to its own car development programme, Mercedes can cut the time it takes to design and test components. The simulator can test equipment over a long period, before the carmaker has any need to construct new parts physically. The national design is simply tested over and again by the computer in the dome and modified if faults are detected.

So accurate are the results that Mercedes says the simulator eliminates the need for costly prototypes and hours of laborious testing on the roads.

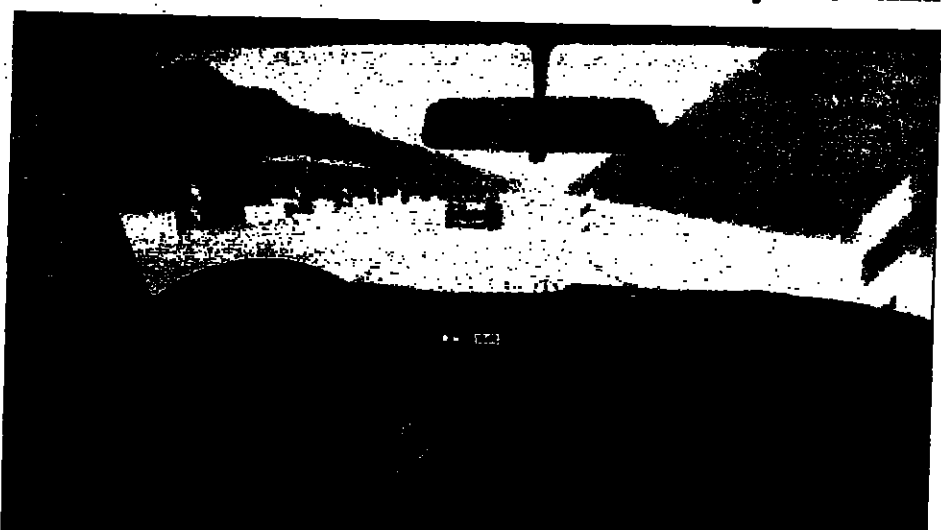
The rear axle of the soon-to-be A-class city car was designed by computer, as well as the axles and steering for the new E-class range, which comes to Britain later this year.

This is the brave, new world of motoring design, a world far removed from the time when Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler, founders of the Mercedes business, bashed metal to make their first cars and engines.

The next step is to make headless that take engineers and drivers into a computer world that allows them to sit inside a car that doesn't exist, and drive along a road that is not there to a destination dreamed up by an electronic brain. Watch this space. Research by Hilton Holloway



Virtual reality: the five-tonne Mercedes simulator dome, complete with electronic brain, can recreate every street scene and every kind of weather



Vroom with a view: the simulator tests, with astonishing accuracy, how drivers cope with all kinds of unexpected hazards, such as roadworks and narrowing lanes

## 'Classic' owners attack new tax threat

Enthusiasts wary  
of 'non-runner'  
pledge by DoT

Car enthusiasts have bitterly criticised as a "tax on possession" far-reaching proposals to reform road tax laws and introduce a system of continuous licensing (Vaughan Freeman writes).

The proposals were outlined in a Department of Transport discussion document aimed at stopping tax dodges which cost the Treasury about £160 million a year. Enthusiasts fear the proposals will penalise law-abiding motorists by landing them with the cost and red tape of tax enforcement.

Owners of classic and vintage cars have found support for their cause among fair-weather sports car drivers and motorcyclists, as well as motor-caravanners who use their respective modes of transport for only a few weeks each year.

The document proposes three categories of licence. These would include full-time, on-road licences similar to the existing Vehicle Excise Duty. There would also be an off-road licence available for six or 12 months, designed for



Source of the problem

vehicles likely to be out of commission for such a period, and a shorter temporary off-road licence.

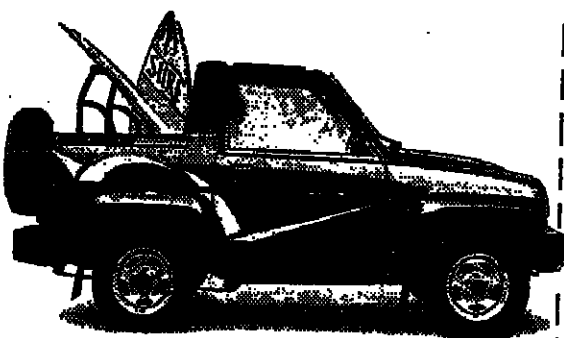
In an interview with CAR 95 last month the Transport Secretary, Dr Brian Mawhinney, said the fears of classic car owners over the proposals were unfounded. He added: "The idea of imposing full vehicle excise duty on classic, vintage or heritage cars which are only on the roads a few days a year is not a runner."

Far from being reassured, classic car enthusiasts say they have not been given adequate time for consultation. The consultation period is due to end on June 2. Jim Whyman, secretary of the Federation of British Historic Vehicles Clubs, said: "We applaud efforts to catch the cheats but not at the expense of an innocent minority. The Government should withdraw the unfair, unwieldy and probably unworkable proposal for continuous licensing."

Trisha Pilkington, of the Tonnes Motor Museum in Devon, who runs the Tops historic racing car club, has a 500-signature petition against the proposals, which, she says, have not been properly costed. The administration charge for continuous licensing is suggested at an improbably low £5.

Regardless of what may happen in the future, classic car owners are renowned for their eye for detail. So if you want to add that authentic touch, facsimile discs are now available in the precise original colour for every year from 1921 to 1974 from Earlswood Reproductions (0173-776 4343).

# Sports car: £9,995.



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NO NONSENSE VEHICLES FROM JAPAN



## THE AA'S GRID-LOCK GUIDE

## ● LONDON

M1, A40 and A406: FA Cup Final at Wembley next Saturday. Expect heavy congestion.

A406 North Circular Rd. Upper Edmonton: width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct until end 1995.

A219 Putney Bridge: one lane each way for repairs until June.

A41 Edgware Way, Barnet: Overnight repairs between Spur Rd and Elstree Rd South. Southbound exit slip at J4 of M1 closed 5pm-5.30am until end of June.

## ● SOUTH EAST

Berkshire: Royal Windsor Horse Show at Home Park May 10-14.

M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): lane closures both directions.

M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): roadworks cause regular delays and affect traffic joining from M23 northbound.

M3 Surrey J4-5 (Fleet Services-Hook): new roadworks, carriageway down to two lanes each way. Long delays expected.

A3 Guildford, Surrey: major roadworks between Stoke Interchange and Compton. Long delays expected.

M23 J9 (Gatwick) Sussex: Resurfacing May 15 to July with contraflow northbound.

## ● SOUTH WEST

M5 Avon J19-17 (Portbury-Bristol West): Contraflow.

M5 Avon J16: Southbound entry slip road closed.

M5 Glos J11-12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester): contraflow until September.

M5 J9 (Tewkesbury): Contraflow.

A40 Glos (Golden Valley Bypass): One lane each way across the M5.

A36 Somerset (A366 junction): Major roadworks.

A39 Penryn, Cornwall: Long delays. Should be avoided.

## ● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands J5-6 (A462-A38M): Contraflow with three narrow lanes each way and some restrictions on slip roads at J6.

A43 Silverstone, Northants: resurfacing work. Long delays expected.

A45 Stonebridge (JA452): flyover construction widening between the M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island.

## ● NORTH

M6 Lancashire J29-32 (Bamber Bridge-Broughton): Widening works with only two lanes southbound at J31 (Salmesbury).

M63 Greater Manchester J10-12 (Princess Parkway-Brinkway): No entry northbound at J11. Long delays expected at rush hour.

## ● WALES

A48 Dyfed: Contraflow in place west of J49 of the M4 (Pont Abraham), for construction.

A5 Maerdy, Cwyt (Glyn bends): Various restrictions including temporary lights at times and short term closures until end July.

A4223 Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan: A one-way system is operating on Gellifastad Road because of widening work until the end of June.

A40 Monmouth, Gwent: Lane closures at the Gibraltar Tunnels until August for lighting work.

## ● SCOTLAND

M90 Tayside J10 (Friarton Bridge): Northbound lane closed and an overnight contraflow.

M8 Strathclyde J15-18 (Townhead-Charing Cross): Outside lane closed westbound.

M9 Lothian J2 (Newbridge): Major construction between the motorway and the Edinburgh City Bypass.

Edinburgh: Width restrictions on the High Street between North and South bridges until end of June.

A91 Kirkcaldy, Fife: Width restrictions on St Clair Street.

A90 Forth Road Bridge, Lothian: Overnight work with contraflow May 19-22 8pm-6am. 30mph speed limit, wide loads divert via Kincardine Bridge.

## ● NORTHERN IRELAND

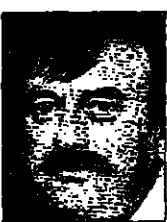
M2 County Antrim: Lane closures south of Dunsilly, for resurfacing.

M22 County Antrim: Southbound diversions for resurfacing work between Ballygrobey and Dunsilly.

'VED is ridiculous, unfair, bureaucratic, hard to collect, and out of kilter with the Government's own policies'

## Get in gear, Ken, and write off road tax

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

My colleagues who cover the Palace of Varieties, otherwise known as Parliament, reckon the Government's survival strategy rests heavily on a giveaway budget in November 1996. However, an administration in this one's condition cannot get there from here, so to speak, therefore Kenneth Clarke will surely have to start opening the box of goodies this November. What chance of a share for the motorists?

There are 25 million cars in Britain and motorists contribute about £23 billion to the national purse each year. In exchange, total government spending on transport — buses and trains as well as roads — is less than £7 billion. So the Treasury is the daily winner of a jackpot provided by car drivers.

Apart from the tax on fuel, which amounts to 75 per cent on each litre, the Government raises about £3 billion every year from vehicle excise duty (VED), or road tax.

The petrol tax has a lot to commend it, whereas VED is ridiculous, unfair, bureaucratic, hard to collect and out of kilter with the Government's own policy on the environment, which claims to be in favour of taxing the polluter. VED

taxes the owner, whether that is the little old lady doing 3,000 miles a year or the sales exec doing 60,000. Now, as our story on page 1 reveals, the VED bureaucratic nightmare is being extended to owners of classic cars. In the late 1980s, there were signs that Whitehall had woken up, because VED did not increase. In 1993, though, it went up a massive 18 per cent, to £135. Evasion of VED is running at an estimated £6 million a year. In the wake of the local election debacle, there was much hand-wringing about what the Tories could do to

increase their popularity. They could take note that research by the AA shows 72 per cent of motorists want VED abolished.

The AA says abolition should be gradual, with the burden switching to petrol tax so that users pay — the acid test of any tax system. A cut of 10 per cent in VED from November would need a petrol tax increase of only 2 per cent. The scrapping of VED at one fell swoop, which I favour, would raise petrol duty by 30 per cent.

That sounds a lot but in fact the average motorist, covering 12,000 miles a year, would pay about the same in increased petrol costs as now paid in VED. However, the financial consequences of driving would be felt directly and regularly, rather than once a year in a queue at the post office.

If the Government is serious about reducing both bureaucracy and pollution, it will scrap VED and switch to raising the money in a way that is both direct and unavoidable. If it is not serious, it will not take that step. Over to you, Mr Clarke.

Not, though, without a suggestion as to a source of more revenue for the



insatiable Treasury. Fellow boat-owners will doubtless stop speaking to me as of today, but fearless campaigners cannot concern themselves with that.

Not many people know that marine diesel fuel, which is dyed red to distinguish it from the kind used in road vehicles, sells for roughly 25 pence a litre, less than half of the cost of the road version. This harks back to sensible legislation designed to

favour the shipping fleets but also applies to pleasure boats.

So car diesel at my local garage costs 54.9 pence a litre; for the boat, at a marina, it costs 25 pence a litre. Boating in Britain has accurately been described as standing in a shower tearing up £20 notes. None the less, it is impossible to justify swingeing taxes on petrol and road diesel while that for pleasure boats is, in effect, subsidised by the taxpayer.

## Fresh moves for clean air

Tony Dawe on the Government's strategy to improve air quality in towns

The first step towards banning cars from busy towns on days of heavy pollution will be taken within the next couple of weeks when the Government introduces new powers into the Environment Bill currently going through Parliament.

An amendment to be proposed by Robert Atkins, the Environment Minister, will open the way for local councils to establish air-quality management areas. They will be encouraged to set air-quality targets and given powers to achieve them, including the ability to ban traffic.

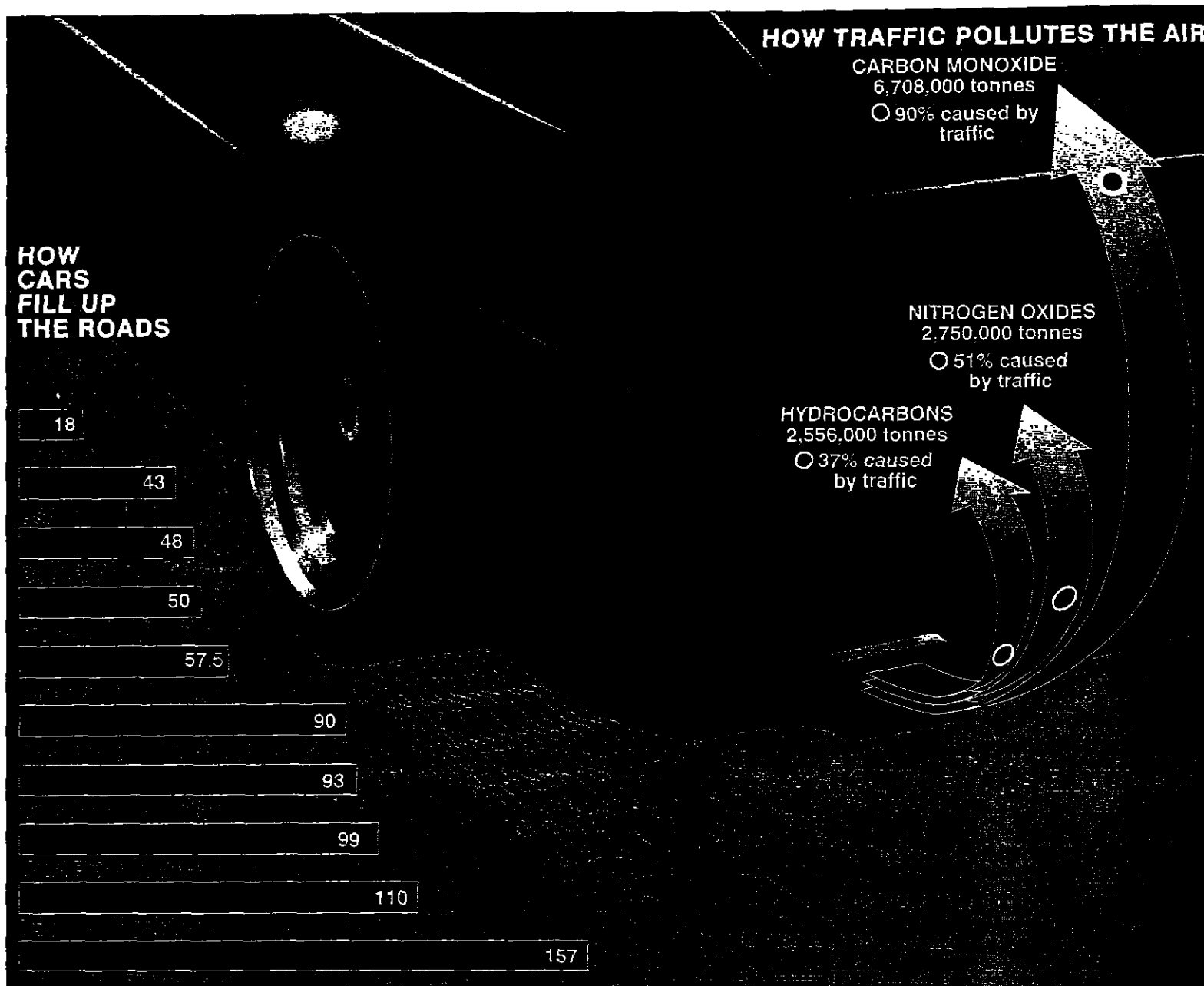
The move comes after several cities, including London, Belfast and Sheffield, recorded dangerously high levels of pollutants, mostly caused by traffic, during unseasonably hot weather a week ago.

In London alone, more than 1.3 million tonnes of pollutants are released into the atmosphere each year, with 80 per cent estimated to come from motor vehicles. The pollutants include carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, by-products from burning petrol, and unburnt hydrocarbons.

Statistics published earlier this month also showed that Britain has the most congested roads in the industrialised world, apart from Italy, a factor which increases the risk of pollution.

The creation of air-quality management areas is part of the Government's strategy for cleaner air and, in the words of John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, to "offer reassurance to all those concerned about the link between air pollution and respiratory illness".

Local councils will be required to develop a plan to reduce pollution in areas where safety levels are likely to be breached. "They will have a duty to consider the impact of industry and traffic and to take steps to control pollution from both sources," says Roger Hickman, the atmosphere and transport campaigner for Friends of the Earth, which supports the move.



"We hope they will be encouraged to create more pedestrianised streets and cycle ways and to implement traffic bans on smoggy days."

Similar schemes have been introduced in Europe, including Athens, where an experimental ban on traffic within the city centre is in force between 8am and 8pm to reduce smog and promote tourism. Only minibuses and taxis are permitted, with offenders facing a £60 on-the-spot fine.

The German federal government is also considering banning cars without catalytic converters on smoggy days, and local authorities in Bremen and Lower Saxony have ordered speed limits to be reduced in hot weather, from 130 to 90km/h on autobahns (78 to 50mph) and from 100 to 80km/h (62 to 50mph) on other roads.

Brian MaWhinney, the Transport Secretary, believes that the variable 50 and 60 mph speed limits now being tried out on the western sector of the M25 will also reduce pollution as well as improving safety by ensuring that traffic flows more smoothly at peak times.

Local authorities in London have yet to consider such draconian measures as those imposed by their counterparts in Athens and some other cities. They are, however, planning to target the worst offenders: smoky vehicles and those left with their engines running unnecessarily at the kerb.

Measures proposed in a

London Bill, also going through Parliament, would give council officers the power to stop vehicles and test emissions and to issue fixed penalty notices if the emissions exceeded the limits laid down in the MoT test.

"Pollution tickets" would also be issued to drivers of stationary vehicles left with their engines on, such as coaches, taxis and lorries unloading.

"We have met resentment at the thought of council officers being given these powers, but the police lack the time and resources to carry out this role which is essential if pollution is to be reduced," says Ian Keating, of the Association of London Government.

We hope they have traffic bans on smoggy days

## Living room with a lethal touch

Comfortable cars make us forget the dangers, warns Kevin Eason

a map on the steering wheel as he drove his Volkswagen Golf GTI at up to 115mph on the M5 in the West Midlands.

The RAC recommends all mobile phones in cars are "hands free" and tells drivers to plan their routes before they set off.

Edmund King, RAC campaigns manager, says: "We've all seen people doing it. Modern cars are so pleasant and welcoming, drivers settle down and relax, and forget

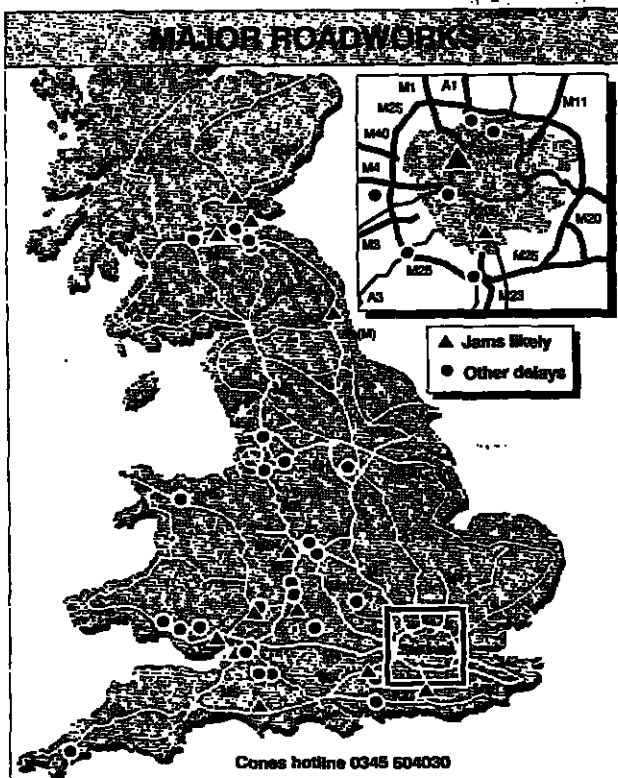
what speeds they are doing and the fact that they are supposed to be in control. But motorists simply must not allow themselves to be lulled into a false sense of security. They might feel they are invincible sitting at the wheel, but they are not and accidents happen at those very moments when drivers are not concentrating or they are fiddling about with equipment that should not distract them."

The RAC says drivers

should pull over to make a phone call or study the map. Better still, make all arrangements before you set out.

Human error is the fault in an estimated nine in ten accidents, according to the AA, high enough for drivers to need to carry out an MoT test on themselves as much as their cars.

Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety, says: "Motorists should routinely ask themselves questions. If a pattern emerges of careless, risky behaviour behind the wheel, drivers should reassess their attitude and look at how they can change."



## NEWS SUMMARY

## Vauxhall marks prices up

Vauxhall puts up prices by an average 0.8 per cent from next week as the impact of the fall in sterling on currency markets continues to hit carmakers. Corsa, Monterey and Frontera prices are unchanged but an Omega 2.0i GLS, made in Germany, which has suffered the worst of the currency changes, goes up £255 to £18,250.

## Safety on the hard shoulder

Green Flag, formerly National Breakdown, is sending 1,500 breakdown operators back to school to improve their safety techniques. The organisation says 20 per cent of motorway accidents are on the hard shoulder and wants breakdown crews, and their customers, to stay safe.

## Jaguar picks up speed

Jaguar celebrates 60 years in business with two new XJS models. The 4.0i coupe, with special wheels and interior trim, is £38,950, while a 2plus2 convertible will be in showrooms at £45,950. XJS sales were up 21 per cent last year and are booming, particularly in the United States.

## Spanish go-ahead

Ford has spent more than £400 million on a new plant at Valencia in Spain to make engines for the company's range of small cars. The first engines will be 1.25 litres in size and probably destined for Ford's new mini-model, the Ka, which is also being built at Valencia. Twice as efficient as traditional plants, Valencia will make an extra 450,000 engines a year.

## Take Friday off the road

If you are reading this from the comfort of your armchair and not a hospital bed, then you avoided the most dangerous day of the week. Churchill Insurance says Friday is when most accidents happen on the roads, accounting for 17 per cent of crashes. Sunday is the safest day. The insurer warns that tired drivers leaving work at the end of a tough week is the probable cause for Friday crashes.

## Mazda cover into next century

Mazda is extending warranties to five years or 100,000 miles, the first company to do so in Britain. This means that owners of new Mazdas will be covered into the next century.



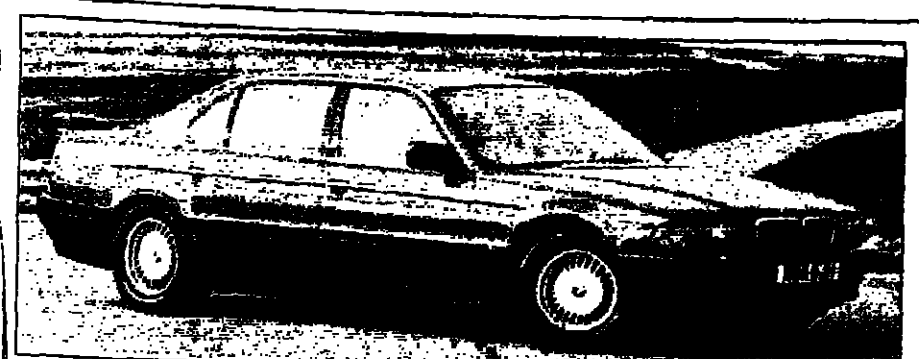








# CAR 95



Top of the range: BMW expects to sell 125 of the £69,000 750iLs in Britain this year

**R**umours of the death of the luxury car have been premature. It has been diagnosed fit, well and with a life expectancy well into the next century, at least by BMW, which expects to take 125 British orders worth £9 million, for its range-topping 750iL this year. The company is confident it will sell even more of the 5.4-litre V12s in this country next year (Anthony Lewis writes).

Demand for luxury cars – and BMW counts its competitors in this class as Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz and even Bentley – peaked at 18,000 in 1988, and has since declined by half. However, sales in the sector this year are already up by 40 per cent, thanks largely to Jaguar's revitalised XJ series, but with BMW holding a firm second place.

It's a rarefied world of motoring, and if you've ever wondered what life is like in the top echelons of the car world, I can tell you that it's really rather pleasant.

The extra five-and-a-half inches in length which the 750iL boasts over the standard 7-series are only really apparent when you open the larger rear doors, to be greeted by acres of plush carpet, leather and leg space.

The rear seats are electrically adjustable and heated; there are blinds on the rear window (electric, of course) and on the side windows, which are double-glazed for extra quietness.

As you would expect from BMW, the car is a technological tour de force, boasting more computer power than it probably took to fly man to the moon. The automatic air-conditioning can

## Luxury market gets a new lease of life



News on the move: the on-board TV system

telephone that works throughout Europe and has a 145-number memory. The television, which will not work when the car is moving for obvious safety reasons, also has access to television services, so senior executives on the move need never be out of touch with stock market prices, news or even the weather.

When you've played with all the toys you can go for a drive and enjoy the 326bhp available from the 5.4-litre V12 engine, even on wet mountain roads, thanks to the latest generation anti-skid system that prevents understeer or oversteer by limiting power output, even applying brakes to individual wheels if necessary to help keep you on the straight and narrow.

**T**he 750iL is uncannily quiet and eerily quick. There were moments when I wished I could have heard the glorious roar of the V12 more clearly. The five-speed automatic gearbox adapts itself to individual driving styles, and you only need to turn the key briefly to the start position to activate the electronics which will then start the engine automatically.

While life at the top might be tough, it obviously has its compensations. Put the chauffeur on half pay and enjoy not just the luxury and comfort but the sheer dynamic brilliance of BMW's finest.

The 750iL costs £69,450; a standard wheelbase 750i is £64,450. For £54,000, there's a long wheelbase 740iL using a 4.0-litre V8 engine with a reduced specification.

Hilton Holloway on why there is such demand for BMW's mould-breaking Compact

## Hatch open to a lucky few

**I** have just spent a week in what I think is Britain's most exclusive car. An Aston Martin, a Ferrari, the mythical McLaren F1 No. 1 – a BMW, and what's more, the company's cheapest model, yours for as little as £13,650.

Or at least it would be, if you could find one for sale. The BMW Compact, launched here last October, is probably the nation's most sought-after new car. Stride into a dealer and slap down the cash and it's unlikely he'd be able to deal. The waiting list currently runs into the autumn, and rumours abound in the trade of hefty premiums being paid on second-hand Compacts, especially the up-market 318Ti.

So what's all the fuss about? Well, the Compact is basically a shortened (by 9in) 3-series saloon, given three doors, a handy hatchback and, thanks to the unchanged wheelbase, the same amount of interior space. It's also the first BMW hatch since the short-lived 2002 Touring of the mid-1970s and the only rear-wheel drive hatchback on the market.



"It's a winner". Roger Sedgwick-Rough, who normally drives a Porsche RS or Audi S2, was won over by the BMW

The Compact delivers what hasn't been around for a few years: practical prestige. Since the demise of the little M2 Golf and the coolly understated old-style BMW 3-series, the one-time yuppie car has all but disappeared, rather like the yuppie. However, in tune with the young and upwardly mobile of the 1990s, the Compact is utterly discreet. It's also sensibly (though modestly) powered, beautifully made and all the contemporary safety and environmental accoutrements are standard (airbags, ABS, side-impact bars, immobiliser). Furthermore, because it's not a "hot hatch", the insurance grouping is a manageable 10.

Oddly, the public and the mainstream motoring press are at odds over the desirability of the Compact. After trumpeting its arrival, enthusiast hacks have become rather snuffy about the cut-down Beamer, partly because they

felt it was a compromise version of the bigger saloon. So who's right? Has the public been sold a glossy dummy or is the Compact the definitive car for the 90s, as sales on the Continent would suggest? I borrowed a basic 316i to find out.

I loved it, and everybody who encountered the Compact fell for its discreet charm, its main advantage over the opposition is that it is a less expensive version of an upmarket range; rivals tend to be dressed-up versions of budget cars. Consequently, the Compact possesses a superbly weighted quality feel that nothing else can touch at this price. Everything from the beautifully designed steering wheel to the engine bay layout

shouts class. True, the truncated rear can look a little odd, but it does house a useful-sized boot without encroaching on passenger space at the back.

Fit and finish is immaculate, as is the design philosophy. The new dashboard is a lesson in crisp logic.

Corner cutting? Well, the push-pull light switches look and feel out of place, but aside from that, the Compact makes the inside of other hatches look either hopelessly dated or gimmicky. In and out of town, it was hard to criticise the car. Those crucial 9in off the tail make squeezing into

supermini-sized parking spaces that much easier and it looks so appealing amid the ranks of everyday hatches. This is a shopping trolley with presence. On the motorway, it was far flatter than the modest 102bhp might suggest, the Autobahn-bred high speed cruising ability shining through.

Roger Sedgwick-Rough, an enthusiast with a taste for German exotics, gave the Compact a thumbs-up after warming up in his 1973 Porsche 911 RS. "It's a lovely car. It feels so solid and handles beautifully. It's going to be a winner."

The BMW wasn't even shamed by his Audi S2 estate in terms of perceived quality. Roger's Golf-owning and hard-driving niece, Claudia, was bowled over. "I love it: the sound of the engine, the solidity and the room and comfort in the back. It's very subtle and doesn't say 'I'm flash'. I want one – now."

Just 5,000 Compacts, which come with a three-year warranty, will be imported this year, and the car is likely to hold its value better than any other on the UK market. In three years time, sold privately, you could get as much as 89 per cent of your money back, according to one trade magazine. A mainstream hot hatch is unlikely to retain more than 50 per cent.

### BMW

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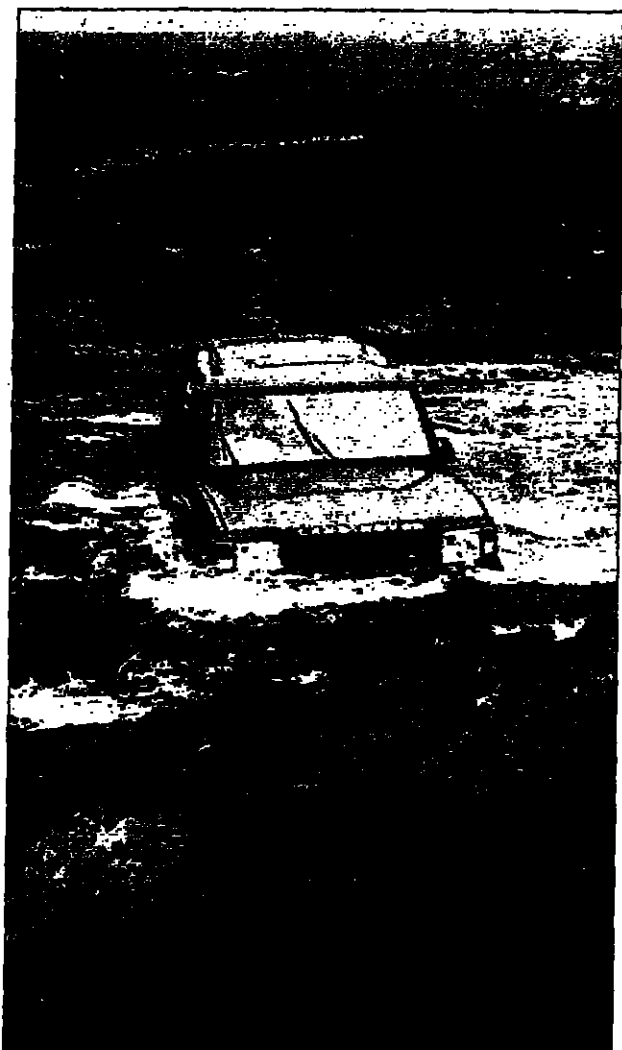




# CAR 95

Vaughan Freeman samples one of Land Rover's off-the-wall holidays for serious off-roaders

## Swap sun and sea for mud and mire



Channel crossing with a difference: a Land Rover battles along the tough 'Scottish Adventure' route



**S**o you want a holiday with a difference? How about a few days slurping through mud, wading through raging rivers and hauling bogged-down vehicles out of the mire? That is the latest offer from Land Rover.

The off-road specialist is confident such tough-guy vacations will prove a success with cosseted customers willing to pay £40,000 and more for the ultimate in air-conditioned, fully automatic, four-wheel-drive luxury.

As well as the Scotland trek, a holiday across the Hannibal Trail, over which the great Carthaginian general once led his elephants, and which leads

off the skiing slopes of Val d'Isère in France, is being organised. Also, this summer the first Land Rover Safaris begin through Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

One of the holidays being developed will entail Range Rover, Discovery and Defender owners battling their way across the network of 18th-century military Wade Roads that criss-cross Scotland.

The 'Scottish Adventure' will enable Land Rover owners to drive through countryside inhabited only by deer, rabbits and rambles on the 143,000-acre Blair Castle Estate, an hour's drive north of Edinburgh, and home and fortress of the Earls and

Dukes of Atholl for seven centuries.

The estate is criss-crossed by the road network devised by General George Wade to allow troops to travel quickly during the Jacobite rising. Today the roads are barely discernible, covered in moss and mud, and follow terrain that is totally inaccessible to ordinary cars.

A trial trek along the route reveals that mud slopes of one-in-three are common, as are stretches of ankle-deep mire and rivers in full spate. Most of the day was spent driving so slowly between boulders and over deep mud craters that the speedometer hardly flickered. At the con-

voys' head, Roger Crathorne, Land Rover's product training manager, walked on to see whether the route was driveable. By the end of the day, every vehicle had got bogged down at some stage and had needed towing out.

Mr Crathorne said: "We wanted to find a place where people had not driven for many years, to demonstrate what can be done in our vehicles. When driving off-road in these arduous and constantly changing condi-

tions, it is vital to ensure that the rules, and well-proven techniques and skills, are followed. Speed is to be avoided. We know our techniques work — that is why we have been given special permission to use the military and estate areas of Blair Castle."

Prices for the holidays in France and Scotland have yet

to be finalised. Prices for the African Safari, run in association with holiday specialists Abercrombie and Kent and with a maximum of only three vehicles on each nine-day trip, range from £2,700 for the Defender Safari in Zambia to £5,107 for the Range Rover Safari in Botswana.

Discounts will be available to Land Rover owners, with the Botswana safari only open to existing owners.

To reassure those tempted to sign up, would-be adventurers will be offered training in serious off-road driving, and all holiday convoys will be

accompanied by experts in four-wheel-drive motoring. Training will be on the 5,000-acre Eastnor Castle estate near Ledbury in Herefordshire, and vehicles for the holidays and tuition will be supplied by Land Rover.

Company spokesman Colin Walkey said: "Today the car is very much part of the owner's lifestyle and we are selling that whole package. We recognised from past events we have organised that we were giving people the sort of adventure that money couldn't buy. From that was born the idea of us as a car company going into the holiday business."

Land Rover Safari desk: 0171-730 9600

## Prove your prowess in good company



The 2-litre Primera SLX: the tests will include driving the car at speed, through cones, and through a skid

**I**t is frustrating, frightening and infuriating — but still fun to try to complete the tests in our search for the Company Car Driver of the Year.

We need 120 teams to do battle for the honour of one of motoring's most prestigious titles. Although the tests will be tough, they will also be rewarding, and drivers will discover they can have a good time at the wheel even when stress levels soar.

Drive Tech, one of Britain's top driver training schools, will check the skills of our entrants, while Nissan is providing a fleet of 2-litre Primers for the tests.

While roadcraft will be a

**Drive your way to a free holiday for two in Europe**

premium skill, it is not the only test drivers face at the regional heats. Their judgment will also be put under the microscope. Drivers have to guide a Primera, fitted with a large saucer on its bonnet in which there is a ball, through a maze of cones: the art is to keep the ball in the saucer and still negotiate the course against the clock. It is like being released into a fairground arcade game... but this game uses real cars and

racks up points which could be vital to getting through the heat and into the final of our contest, sponsored jointly by The Times and Lease Plan, Britain's leading fleet management company.

Chris Howell, Drive Tech's founder, says: "The level of concentration among drivers in this test last year was wonderful. They were all treating it as seriously as Nigel Mansell driving at Monaco and having a tremendous amount of fun."

For many, driving the £15,000 Nissan Primera SLX will be part of the treat, for the British-built model has won an enviable reputation around Europe as one of the best cars in its sector, its 2-litre power pack capable of pushing the car to a top speed of 127mph.

However, there is plenty of comfort, too, particularly for drivers who will be expected to cover a tough road course under the watchful gaze of Drive Tech's highly qualified examiners. At the end, they will be given a report on how they performed so they can improve their driving skills.

**THE TIMES**  
Lease Plan  
Company Car Driver 1995

There is more to come for the drivers good enough to qualify for the final at Silverstone, home of the British Grand Prix. They will be driving the Primers on the famous track at high speeds on manoeuvring courses, as well as covering roads with examiners.

They will be expected to be able to negotiate hazards at high speed and cope with a skid, all watched by John Watson, the former McLaren Formula One racer, whose Silverstone Driving Centre will be carrying out the exacting tests.

For the winner, the prize is an expenses-paid touring holiday for two in Europe in a car provided by Lease Plan, plus £500 in spending money. The winning company will also get free training for a dozen of its drivers.

Entrants already range from a team of paramedics to workers from Ericsson, one of the top mobile telephone companies. Six regional centres have been chosen (see left), so there will be a heat near you. We are delaying the closing date by a week because of demand. So enter now.

## Alan Copps on a wheelchair that is also a car seat

A WHEELCHAIR that converts into the front seat of a production saloon is among the innovations which will be on show this weekend at the Mobility Roadshow Exhibition.

The show takes place at the Transport Research Laboratory in Crowthorne, Berkshire, together with several other automotive events including, by way of contrast, a gathering of VW Golf GTI enthusiasts.

The CarChair, made by the Sussex-based firm Constables, converts to either the driver's or front passenger seat. The makers say it offers disabled drivers total freedom of mobility by enabling them to get themselves in

## Boon for disabled drivers

and out of a vehicle without having to leave their wheelchair.

A lifting post is located on the inside of the door of a converted car, and the wheelchair user reverses the specially-designed seat alongside it. Using a simple hand-held control, the disabled driver can then use the post to raise the CarChair off the ground, turn it around and lower it into the well of

the vehicle. This saves the driver or passenger having to exchange seats and avoids the undignified business of being manhandled into position.

There is an optional gadget which, at the touch of a button, will retract the wheels of the chair before it is lowered into the car. The system has been crash-tested in the United States and the company claims that its sophisticated ergonomic design offers exceptional comfort.

Constables Ltd, Mouniney Bridge Business Park, Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5NF. 01323 767574.

**THE TIMES**  
**LEASE PLAN COMPANY CAR DRIVER 1995**

Company .....  
Address .....  
Postcode .....  
Entrant ..... Position .....  
Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for your company's car fleet.  
Tel No ..... Fax No .....  
Nature of Business .....  
No of employees ..... No of company cars .....  
Nominated drivers .....  
Surname ..... Age ..... Surname ..... Age .....  
Forename(s) ..... Forename(s) .....  
Job title ..... Job title .....  
How long employed ..... yrs Points on licence ..... How long employed ..... yrs Points on licence .....  
Please select one first and one second choice for the location and date of your team's regional heat (indicate your selection by placing a 1 or 2 within box):  
Oxford, (Moat House), 8th June ☐  
Nottingham, (Moat House), 14th June ☐  
Hereford, (Moat House), 28th June ☐  
Ware, Hertfordshire, (Briggs House Hotel) 12th July ☐  
Glasgow, (Moat House International), 22nd June ☐  
Blackburn, (Moat House), 4th July ☐  
Please ensure that you and your nominated drivers are available on both your first and second choice and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 11th August. Initial qualification will be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.  
Send completed entries by 24 May, 1995 to: The Times - Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995, Leedex PR, 52-54 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF

**COMPETITION RULES**  
The closing date for entries is 24 May 1995. Drivers must be over 24 years of age to enter. Maximum number of endorsements on any competitor's driving licence is three points. Drivers must bring their current driving licence to their regional heat for confirmation of the above. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in groups of three. Companies can only enter one team to compete. The entrant may nominate him/herself as part of the team. Competitors must drive a fleet. Drivers must be nominated as part of their employment or remuneration package. Qualification for the semi-final award will be dependent on a written test, to be completed by the entrant at their team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, Drive Tech, Nissan, News International and the Brinkley Group are not permitted to enter. In the event of the entrant's regional heat, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the first heat and the team will be placed on a reserve list. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the regional heat, the entrant will be called upon to attend the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to attend the competition, the reserve driver will be invited to attend in their place. The prize for the winner will be a seven day European touring holiday for two. The prize for the runner-up will be a driver programme for twelve employees. Cash alternatives are not available. The judge's decision is final.

**THE TIMES**  
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Sunday, 18 June: Following the race, drive back to Rouen for a meal stop before travelling on to Calais for a late night ferry.  
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## Only the toughest are still in the race for Mexico City

*In the third of his special reports on the 25th anniversary London-Mexico Rally, Roy Dixon, co-driving Tony Fall in a Volvo 142S, reports from Quito, Ecuador, on a week which saw several competitors fall by the wayside.*

**Closed  
borders no  
impediment  
for intrepid  
rallyists**

The teams have now left the deserts of Peru and arrived in the lush alpine countryside of Ecuador. After 19 days hard racing this toughest of rallies is beginning to take its toll and, sadly, friends are being left behind to find their own way home. So far 12 of the 59 starters have given up.

We heard of two retirements by fax. One was from Bill and Eileen Ainscough from Wigan who were forced to call it a day in their 1929 Chrysler 77, the oldest car in the race, after a superhuman effort to cross the Andes. The problem was oil seeping into the clutch.

The other was from George Hampson and Freddie Preston in their Rover 2000 which, apart from attempting to complete the race, was taking Paddington Bear to Lima to raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign. Freddie, reporting a blown engine after leaving Lima on three cylinders, said Paddington had achieved his quest in finding Aunt Lucy but was returning to London without her.

The most miraculous survivors are Major Nick Sharples and

overall, without major dramas other than Tony badly spraining his ankle. But all is well and last week we put in our best performance so far by coming third on one stage.

It has been a very tiring race. Most mornings we are up at 4.30am. Tony usually works on the car at a local Volvo dealership until 10.00am. Without his efforts and their assistance, we would have been out of the rally by now.

One of the most impressive drives was Stage 23, a 55km all-tarmac section near Cuenca in southern Ecuador. It favoured the most powerful cars in the rally and was won in 26 minutes 22 seconds by the Ford Mustang of Australian Terry Daly and his New Zealand co-driver Bob Brill.

Stage 23 was not so kind to Stanley Ilman from South Africa and his Austrian co-driver Franz Stangl. After being given a clutch by the owner of one of only three Porsches in Lima, the petrol pump on their 911 broke, costing them another 20 minutes.

Hannu Mikkola from Finland and his co-driver Gunnar Palm from Sweden, winners of 1970 event, continue to lead in their Ford Escort. Their professionalism, speed and general workmanlike approach is admired by all.

Corporal Mick Isted of the Princess of Wales Regiment in their Mark I Escort, who are raising money for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. They shattered a differential on Sunday but could not get mechanics to start work until Monday. Once repaired they rushed to the start in Piura, northern Peru, and made it with just one minute to spare. They then took to their beds to rest and follow the others later, only to find the border into Ecuador shut. It turned out that to competitors who had crossed earlier in the day had been the first cars to leave Ecuador from Peru in three months and the guards were not letting anyone else follow them. However, Major Sharples has arrived with the rest of us, albeit without the necessary stamps in his passport.

Tony and I continue in fifth place

## Scottish rival to the Mille Miglia



A 1957 Mercedes 300SL heads a row of rare cars being carefully watched over in the eighth year of the Ecurie Ecosse in Tayside.

### **Kevin Eason on the exclusive club of the Talacrest Ecurie Ecosse Rally**

**T**he watchful eyes under the peaked cap were guarding some of the most valuable metal in the country.

Lined up behind the security man on the gravelled forecourt of a hotel in the north of Scotland were cars to take the breath away. Unfortunately, there was always the prospect that the light-fingered might decide to take a piece of car away given half a chance during this week's Talacrest Ecurie Ecosse Rally.

In its eighth year, the Ecurie Ecosse has become less of a rally and more of an exclusive club with 36 exotic models, from Ferraris to Bentleys, haring around more than 700 miles around Tayside.

The rally is a reminder of the fun of motor sport with the cars and owners there to show off and to be shown off. Frank Sytzer, the former British Touring Cars Champion, was with his 1964 AC Cobra, and Viscount Crowday with a Ferrari 365 GTB Competition Daytona from 1970. But there was also a Ferrari 250GT Berlinetta, once driven by Stirling Moss, an Aston Martin LM23, which ran four times at Le Mans, and the

**Jaguar C-type Lightweight**  
which was first to average  
100mph over 24 hours at Le  
Mans.

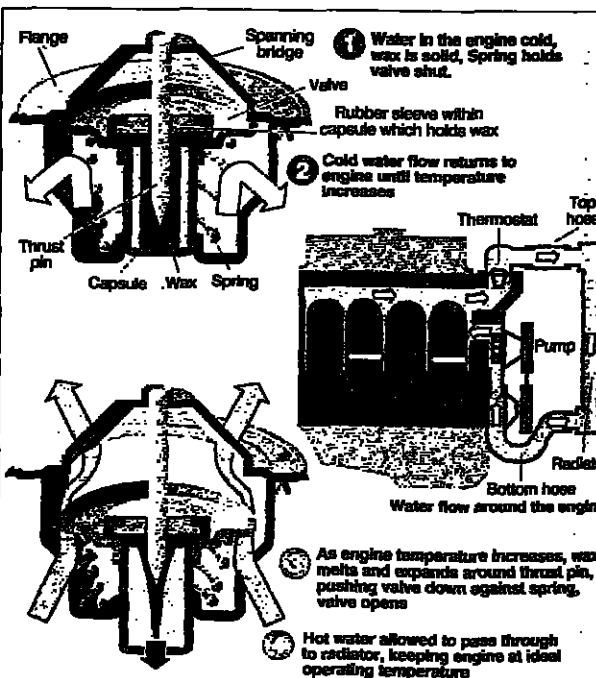
Such rare cars would inevitably attract the attention of thieves but John Foster, the organiser, yesterday reported no problems. Mr Foster, who dreamt up the Ecurie Ecosse as a British rival to Italy's famous Mille Miglia, said: "Parts are very expensive and rare and light-fingered people taking them would cause problems."

With winding roads to negotiate, difficult thoroughbreds such as these might have been expected to spend time with bonnets up and owners in despair. But Foster was having difficulty finding a recipient for the most sought-after award of the week: the silver spanner for the car suffering the most breakdowns.

"We had one flat battery and needed some Araldite, but apart from that everything went smoothly," he said. Owners paid £1,200 to enter and all proceeds — about £10,000 funded by the sponsors, Talacrest of Egham, Surrey — go to charity. But a new sponsor is needed for the 1996 rally.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

# Thermostats keep things cool



A CAR ENGINE started from cold takes time to warm up and to reach its correct operating temperature. The quicker it reaches that temperature the sooner it begins operating at its most efficient (Vaughan Freeman writes).

though the water pump is working, it cannot pump water through the closed thermostat, and instead travels through a bypass.

As the engine warms up so does the thermostat, and the wax inside the capsule begins to melt and expand. This expansion drives out the thrust pin, which opens the valve, allowing the hot water to pass through and back to the radiator.

When the engine is turned off the wax begins to cool and contract. As it does, the spring pushes the valve closed. The wax then solidifies with the thermostat in its closed position, ready for the engine to be turned on.

A faulty thermostat — for instance one in which the wax has leaked out causing the thermostat to jam closed — can cause the engine to overheat because water will not circulate back to the radiator. In this case the thermostat must be replaced or, in an emergency, simply removed until a new one can be fitted.

**"PAPA, DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN BUY A CLIO ON 0% FINANCE  
OVER TWO YEARS?"**

**"BETTER TAKE A LOOK OUT OF THE WINDOW, NICOLE."**

Where buying a Clio is concerned, the car itself is incentive enough for Papa. But when Renault offer 0% finance over 2 years across the Clio range, the chateau can expect a new arrival *tout de suite*.

And who wouldn't share his enthusiasm? After all, the Clio range is wide enough to suit everyone's taste.

For instance, keenly priced refinement distinguishes the RL Prima, superb

specification the RT, unbeatable practicality the Clio diesels. And stunning performance is the hallmark of the 16 Valve and RSi.

Whatever model suits you, though, you'll certainly

Typical Examples		Renault Clio RL Prima 1.2 3-dr	Renault Clio RT 1.4 3-dr
Cash price inc. on the road costs*		£7,564.00	£10,964.00
0% Finance	Deposit 50%	£3,782.08	£5,482.16
	Total Credit Price	£7,564.00	£10,964.00
	24 Monthly Payments	£157.58	£228.41

feel secure in your choice. Every Clio boasts side impact protection bars and seat belt pre-tensioners. While all models (except RL and RN) come with a driver's side airbag as standard.

**For more information call Freephone 0800 525150 or pop into your Renault dealer. And see about enhancing the view from your window, too.**

# RENAULT CLIO

[illegible]

مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



13 1995

ia

JOHN PAUL

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'She's Out' at the wheel of a Range Rover

Page 10



Enjoy the challenge to win a touring holiday

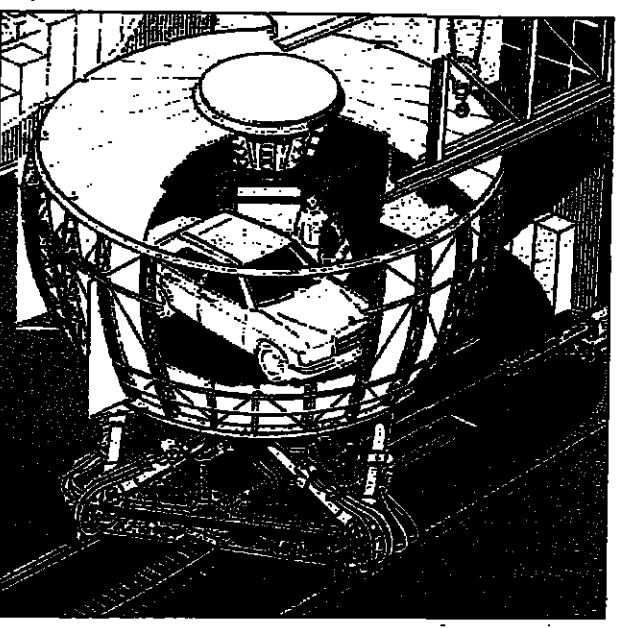
Page 7



SATURDAY MAY 13 1995

Kevin Eason on a remarkable electronic brain designing the transport of tomorrow

# 2001 - an odyssey to the supercar



The projection dome, with its six colour video projectors, in which car and driver motor into virtual reality

The snow was beating down on the windscreen as the car slewed from side to side until there was no escape from the inevitable crash. The sound of splintering metal in an £80,000 car would bring even the hardest motorist out in a cold sweat of fear. The crash, though, was not real - just a figment of a sophisticated electronic imagination. The cabin of the S-class Mercedes looked real enough, but there was no engine, no wheels and no road to drive on, only a Sega-type virtual reality display on a 180-degree television screen and a machine which acted and felt like a real car. Even the weather was thought up by computer.

The Mercedes-Benz simulator is the arcade game addict's ultimate dream, the car loaded into a "flying saucer", a five-tonne dome on stilts which can recreate every street scene down to the whoosh of wind noise over the windscreen and the howl of a January gale. Dip the throttle and the S-class is shooting along a cobbled street, swishing past pedestrians, its wheels apparently dancing with each crevice in the road. Except the cabin of this S-class is contained inside its computerised womb, insulated from the outside world, the bumps and bangs recreated by the six hydraulic legs of the huge dome.

Each movement is calculated by an electronic brain checking the driver's actions every six milli-seconds, for the computer is not just watching the car, it is watching the driver, too. This is the modern face of Hal, the brain at the centre of the Jupiter-bound spaceship in Stanley Kubrick's 2001, A Space Odyssey, that not only talks to machines but studies every movement and response in the driver.

Every blink of the eye is

'Every blink of the eye is measured'

measured, every heartbeat counted, every tiny rise in blood pressure noted until the computer has built up a profile so accurate, it probably knows more about the driver than he understands about himself.

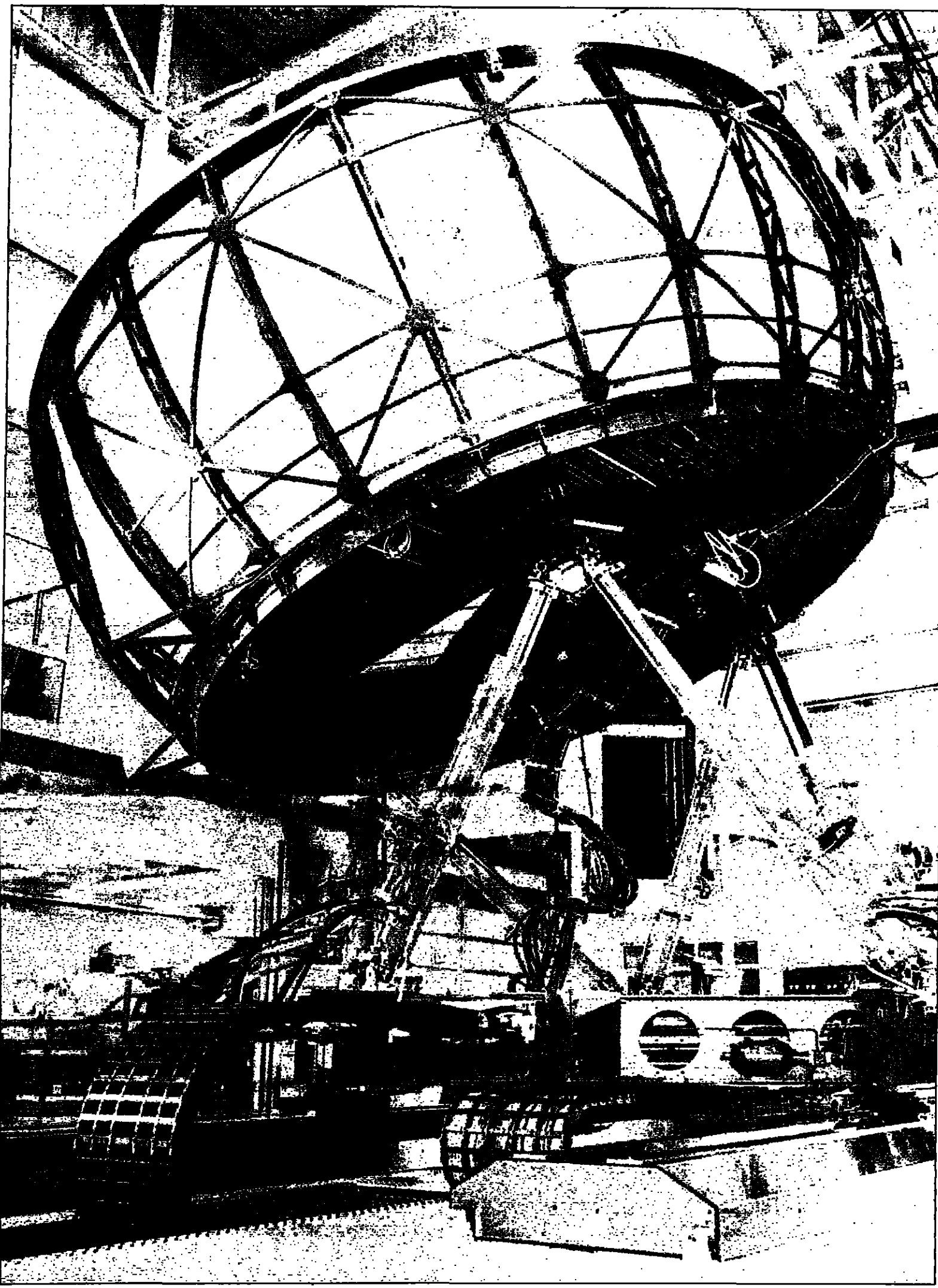
Mercedes engineers concluded that no matter how clever the automatic equipment on board a car, it was only as good as the driver. Most, for example, never press the brakes to the limit even in the direst emergency, which means they never make the best use of anti-lock brakes.

They also discovered that far from being alerted by the squeal of brakes in an emergency, the noise simply distracted drivers and slowed their reactions to a skid. Strangely, drivers reacted immediately to a gong warning that they were out of control.

The Mercedes boffins realised the reaction to the gong meant they could devise some form of early warning system that could save hundreds of drivers from crashing. As "Hal" - housed in an unprepossessing factory on the outskirts of Berlin - watched its human guinea pigs, engineers became aware that drivers suffer from three problems: they panic and oversteer when they lose control, don't brake hard enough and take too long thinking about what to do.

A loud warning signal would do more to alert drivers to danger than relying on their "feel" for the car's movement. Even the daftest driver - doped on drink or drugs - can be checked in complete safety, able to crash a hundred times without fear of injury or damaging a luxury car.

The benefits of simulators for training pilots have long been known but their use in the motor industry is in its infancy. Dr Michael Kramer, director of Daimler-Benz research, says research institutions from around the world,



Virtual reality: the five-tonne Mercedes simulator dome, complete with electronic brain, can recreate every street scene and every kind of weather

including America's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, have used the simulator to study the effects of drugs, alcohol and lack of sleep on drivers.

By melding the feedback from driver reaction to its own car development programme, Mercedes can cut the time it takes to design and test components. The simulator can test equipment over a long period before the carmaker has any need to construct new parts physically. The nodal design is simply tested over and over by the computer in the dome and modified if faults are detected.

So accurate are the results that Mercedes says the simulator eliminates the need for costly prototypes and hours of laborious testing on the roads.

The rear axle of the soon-to-be A-class city car was designed by computer, as well as the axles and steering for the new E-class range, which comes to Britain later this year.

This is the brave, new world of motoring design, a world far removed from the time when Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler, founders of the Mercedes business, bashed metal to make their first cars and engines.

The next step is to make headsets that take engineers and drivers into a computer world that allows them to sit inside a car that doesn't exist, and drive along a road that is not there to a destination dreamed up by an electronic brain. Watch this space. Research by Hilton Holloway



Vroom with a view: the simulator tests, with astonishing accuracy, how drivers cope with all kinds of unexpected hazards, such as roadworks and narrowing lanes

## 'Classic' owners attack new tax threat

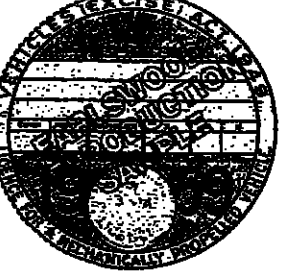
Enthusiasts wary of 'non-runner' pledge by DoT

Car enthusiasts have bitterly criticised as a "tax on possession" far-reaching proposals to reform road tax laws and introduce a system of continuous licensing (Vaughan Freeman writes).

The proposals were outlined in a Department of Transport discussion document aimed at stopping tax dodges which cost the Treasury about £160 million a year. Enthusiasts fear the proposals will penalise law-abiding motorists by landing them with the cost and red tape of tax enforcement.

Owners of classic and vintage cars have found support for their cause among fair-weather sports car drivers and motorcyclists, as well as motor-caravanners who use their respective modes of transport for only a few weeks each year.

The document proposes three categories of licence. These would include full-time, on-road licences similar to the existing Vehicle Excise Duty. There would also be an off-road licence available for six or 12 months, designed for



Source of the problem

vehicles likely to be out of commission for such a period, and a shorter temporary off-road licence.

In an interview with CAR 95 last month the Transport Secretary, Dr Brian Mawhinney, said the fears of classic car owners over the proposals were unfounded. He added: "The idea of imposing full vehicle excise duty on classic, vintage or heritage cars which are only on the roads a few days a year is not a runner".

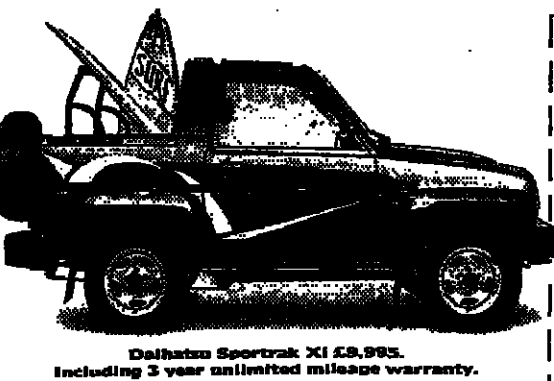
Far from being reassured, classic car enthusiasts say they have not been given adequate time for consultation. The consultation period is due to end on June 2. Jim Whyman, secretary of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, said: "We applaud efforts to catch the cheats but not at the expense of an innocent minority. The Government should withdraw the unfair, unwieldy, and probably unworkable proposal for continuous licensing."

Trisha Pilkington, of the Totnes Motor Museum in Devon, who runs the Totnes historic racing car club, has a 500-signature petition against the proposals, which, she says, have not been properly costed. The administration charge for continuous licensing is suggested at an improbably low £5.

Regardless of what may happen in the future, classic car owners are renowned for their eye for detail. So if you want to add that authentic touch, facsimile discs are now available in the precise original colour for every year from 1921 to 1974 from Earlswood Reproductions (0173-776 4343).

# Sports car: £9,995.

Surfing? Climbing? Mountain biking? Whatever your sport you'll find plenty of room for all the gear that goes with it in the Sportrak Xi, Daihatsu's new 4WD, with power steering, fuel injection and removable rear hardtop.



Daihatsu Sportrak Xi £9,995. Including 3 year unlimited mileage warranty.

For more information on the Sportrak Xi send this coupon to Daihatsu Information Services, FREEPOST 506, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9BR. Or Freephone 0800 521 700.

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CURRENT VEHICLE \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_  
THE SPORTRAK XI

DAIHATSU

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES FROM JAPAN

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES VAT BUT EXCLUDES DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES



## THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

## LONDON

M1, A40 and A406: FA Cup Final at Wembley next Saturday. Expect heavy congestion.  
A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton: width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct until end 1995.  
A219 Putney Bridge: one lane each way for repairs until June.  
A41 Edgware Way, Barnet: Overnight repairs between Spur Rd and Elstree Rd South. Southbound exit slip at J4 of M1 closed 9pm-5.30am until end of June.

## SOUTH EAST

Berkshire: Royal Windsor Horse Show at Home Park May 10-14.  
M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): lane closures both directions.  
M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): roadworks cause regular delays and affect traffic joining from M23 northbound.  
M3 Surrey J4-5 (Fleet Services-Hook): new roadworks, carriageway down to two lanes each way. Long delays expected.  
A3 Guildford, Surrey: major roadworks between Stoke Interchange and Compton. Long delays expected.  
M23 J9 (Gatwick) Sussex: Resurfacing May 15 to July with contraflow northbound.

## SOUTH WEST

M5 Avon J19-17 (Portbury-Bristol West): Contraflow.  
M5 Avon J16: Southbound entry slip road closed.  
M5 Glos J11-12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester): contraflow until September.  
M5 J9 (Tewkesbury): Contraflow.  
A40 Glos (Golden Valley Bypass): One lane each way across the M5.  
A36 Somerset (A366 junction): Major roadworks.  
A39 Penryn, Cornwall: Long delays. Should be avoided.

## MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands J5-6 (A462-A38M): Contraflow with three narrow lanes each way and some restrictions on slip roads at J6.  
A43 Silverstone, Northants: resurfacing work. Long delays expected.  
A45 Stonebridge (JA452):

flyover construction widening between the M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island.

## NORTH

M6 Lancashire J29-32 (Bamber Bridge-Broughton): Widening works with only two lanes southbound at J31 (Salisbury).  
M63 Greater Manchester J10-12 (Princess Parkway-Brinkley): No entry northbound at J11. Long delays expected at rush hour.

## WALES

A48 Dyfed: Contraflow in place west of J49 of the M4 (Pont Abraham), for construction.  
A5 Maerdy, Clwyd (Glyn bende): Various restrictions including temporary lights at times and short term closures until end July.  
A4223 Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan: A one-way system is operating on Gellifawr Road because of widening work until the end of June.  
A40 Monmouth, Gwent: Lane closures at the Gibraltar Tunnels until August for lighting work.

## SCOTLAND

M90 Tayside J10 (Friarton Bridge): Northbound lane closed and an overnight contraflow.  
M8 Strathclyde J15-18 (Townhead-Charing Cross): Outside lane closed westbound.  
M9 Lothian J2 (Newbridge): Major construction between the motorway and the Edinburgh City Bypass.  
Edinburgh: Width restrictions on the High Street between North and South bridges until end of June.  
A91 Kirkcaldy, Fife: Width restrictions on St Clair Street.  
A90 Forth Road Bridge, Lothian: Overnight work with contraflow May 19-22 8pm-6am. 30mph speed limit, wide loads divert via Kincardine Bridge.  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
M2 County Antrim: Lane closures south of Dunilly, for resurfacing.  
M22 County Antrim: Southbound diversions for resurfacing work between Ballygrobey and Dunilly.

'VED is ridiculous, unfair, bureaucratic, hard to collect, and out of kilter with the Government's own policies'

## Get in gear, Ken, and write off road tax

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

My colleagues who cover the Palace of Varieties, otherwise known as Parliament, reckon the Government's survival strategy rests heavily on a giveaway budget in November 1996. However, an administration in this one's condition cannot get there from here, so to speak, therefore Kenneth Clarke will surely have to start opening the box of goodies this November. What chance of a share for the motorists?

There are 25 million cars in Britain and motorists contribute about £23 billion to the national purse each year. In exchange, total government spending on transport — buses and trains as well as roads — is less than £7 billion. So the Treasury is the daily winner of a jackpot provided by car drivers.

Apart from the tax on fuel, which amounts to 75 per cent on each litre, the Government raises about £3 billion every year from vehicle excise duty (VED), or road tax.

The petrol tax has a lot to commend it, whereas VED is ridiculous, unfair, bureaucratic, hard to collect and out of kilter with the Government's own policy on the environment, which claims to be in favour of taxing the polluter. VED

taxes the owner, whether that is the little old lady doing 3,000 miles a year or the sales exec doing 60,000.

Now, as our story on page 1 reveals, the VED bureaucratic nightmare is being extended to owners of classic cars. In the late 1980s, there were signs that Whitehall had woken up, because VED did not increase. In 1993, though, it went up a massive 18 per cent, to £130. Last year it was raised again, to £135.

Evasion of VED is running at an estimated £6 million a year. In the wake of the local election debacle, there was much hand-wringing about what the Tories could do to

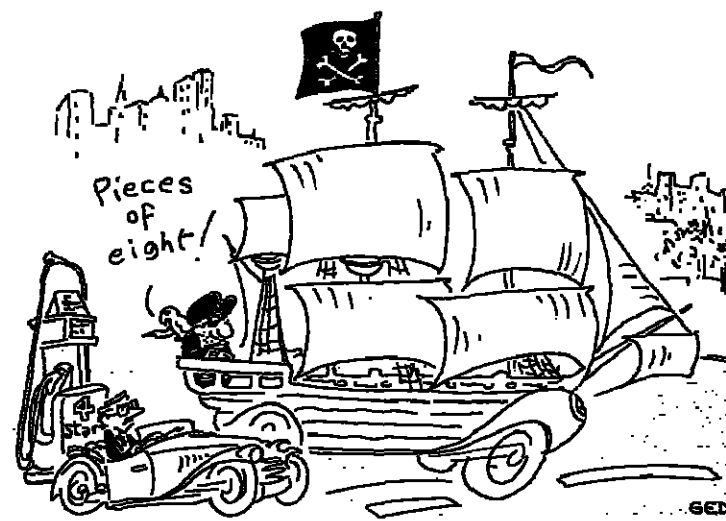
increase their popularity. They could take note that research by the AA shows 72 per cent of motorists want VED abolished.

The AA says abolition should be gradual, with the burden switching to petrol tax so that users pay — the acid test of any tax system. A cut of 10 per cent in VED from November would need a petrol tax increase of only 2 per cent. The scrapping of VED at one fell swoop, which I favour, would raise petrol duty by 30 per cent.

That sounds a lot but in fact the average motorist, covering 12,000 miles a year, would pay about the same in increased petrol costs as now paid in VED. However, the financial consequences of driving would be felt directly and regularly, rather than once a year in a queue at the post office.

If the Government is serious about reducing both bureaucracy and pollution, it will scrap VED and switch to raising the money in a way that is both direct and unavoidable. If it is not serious, it will not take that step. Over to you, Mr Clarke.

Not, though, without a suggestion as to a source of more revenue for the



insatiable Treasury. Fellow boat-owners will doubtless stop speaking to me as of today, but fearless campaigners cannot concern themselves with that.

Not many people know that marine diesel fuel, which is dyed red to distinguish it from the kind used in road vehicles, sells for roughly 25 pence a litre, less than half of the cost of the road version. This harks back to sensible legislation designed to

favour the shipping fleets but also applies to pleasure boats.

So car diesel at my local garage costs 54.9 pence a litre; for the boat, at a marina, it costs 25 pence a litre. Boating in Britain has accurately been described as standing in a shower tearing up £20 notes. None the less, it is impossible to justify swingeing taxes on petrol and road diesel while that for pleasure boats is, in effect, subsidised by the taxpayer.

## Fresh moves for clean air

Tony Dawe on the Government's strategy to improve air quality in towns

The first step towards banning cars from busy towns on days of heavy pollution will be taken within the next couple of weeks when the Government introduces new powers into the Environment Bill currently going through Parliament.

An amendment to be proposed by Robert Atkins, the Environment Minister, will open the way for local councils to establish air-quality management areas. They will be encouraged to set air-quality targets and given powers to achieve them, including the ability to ban traffic.

The move comes after several cities, including London, Belfast and Sheffield, recorded dangerously high levels of pollutants, mostly caused by traffic, during unseasonably hot weather a week ago.

In London alone, more than 13 million tonnes of pollutants are released into the atmosphere each year, with 80 per cent estimated to come from motor vehicles. The pollutants include carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, by-products from burning petrol, and unburnt hydrocarbons.

Statistics published earlier this month also showed that Britain has the most congested roads in the industrialised world, apart from Italy, a factor which increases the risk of pollution.

The creation of air-quality management areas is part of the Government's strategy for cleaner air and, in the words of John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, to "offer reassurance to all those concerned about the link between air pollution and respiratory illness".

Local councils will be required to develop a plan to reduce pollution in areas where safety levels are likely to be breached. They will have a duty to consider the impact of industry and traffic and to take steps to control pollution from both sources," says Roger Hickman, the atmosphere and transport campaigner for Friends of the Earth, which supports the move.

"We hope they will be encouraged to create more pedestrianised streets and cycle ways and to implement traffic bans on smoggy days."

Similar schemes have been introduced in Europe, including Athens, where an experimental ban on traffic within the city centre is in force between 8am and 8pm to reduce smog and promote tourism. Only minibuses and taxis are permitted, with offenders facing a £60 on-the-spot fine.

The German federal government is also considering banning cars without catalytic converters on smoggy days, and local authorities in Bremen and Lower Saxony have ordered speed limits to be reduced in hot weather, from 130 to 90km/h on autobahns (78 to 56mph) and from 100 to 80km/h (62 to 50mph) on other roads.

Brian MaWhinney, the Transport Secretary, believes that the variable 50 and 60 mph speed limits now being tried out on the western sector of the M25 will also reduce pollution as well as improving safety by ensuring that traffic flows more smoothly at peak times.

Local authorities in London have yet to consider such draconian measures as those imposed by their counterparts in Athens and some other cities. They are, however, planning to target the worst offenders: smoky vehicles and those left with their engines running unnecessarily at the kerb.

Measures proposed in a

London Bill, also going through Parliament, would give council officers the power to stop vehicles and test emissions and to issue fixed penalty notices if the emissions exceeded the limits laid down in the MoT test.

"Pollution tickets" would also be issued to drivers of stationary vehicles left with their engines on, such as coaches, taxis and lorries unloading.

"We have met resentment at the thought of council officers being given these powers, but the police lack the time and resources to carry out this role which is essential if pollution is to be reduced," says Ian Keating, of the Association of London Government.

## HOW TRAFFIC POLLUTES THE AIR

## CARBON MONOXIDE

6,708,000 tonnes

90% caused by traffic

## NITROGEN OXIDES

2,750,000 tonnes

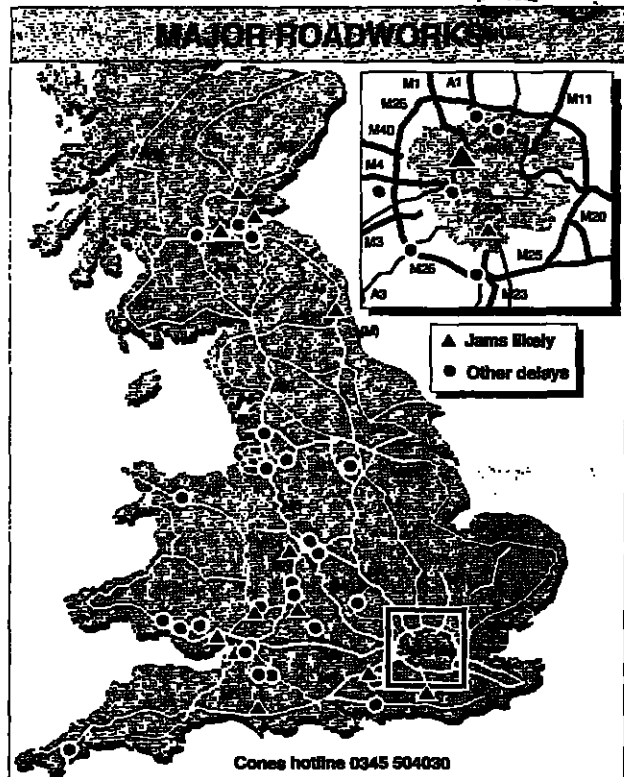
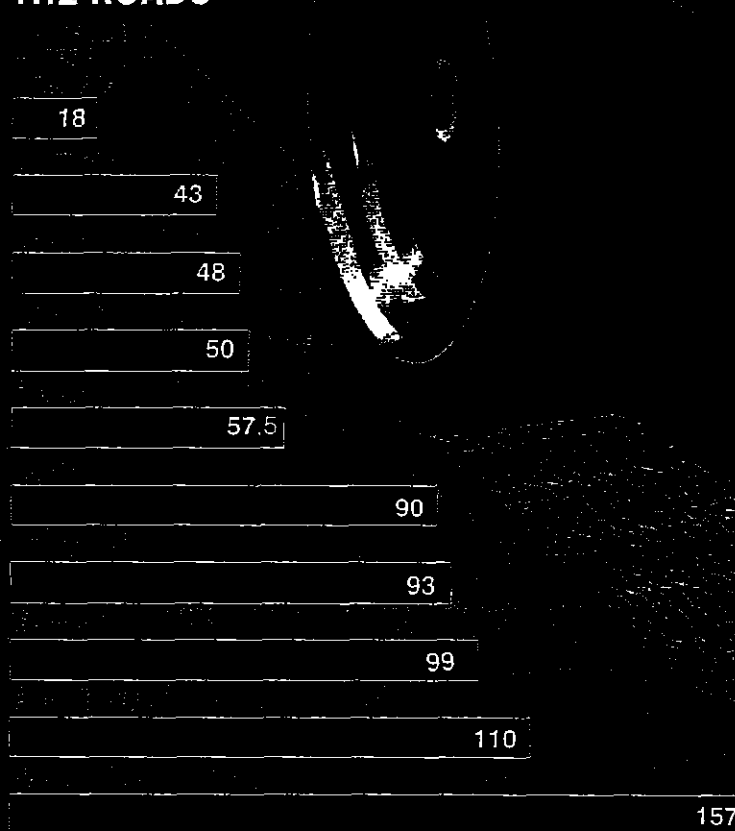
51% caused by traffic

## HYDROCARBONS

2,556,000 tonnes

37% caused by traffic

## HOW CARS FILL UP THE ROADS



Cones hotline 0345 504030

## NEWS SUMMARY

## Vauxhall marks prices up

Vauxhall puts up prices by an average 0.8 per cent from next week as the impact of the fall in sterling on currency markets continues to hit carmakers. Corsa, Monterey and Frontera prices are unchanged but an Omega 2.0i GLS, made in Germany, which has suffered the worst of the currency changes, goes up £255 to £18,250.

## Safety on the hard shoulder

Green Flag, formerly National Breakdown, is sending 1,500 breakdown operators back to school to improve their safety techniques. The organisation says 20 per cent of motorway accidents are on the hard shoulder and wants breakdown crews, and their customers, to stay safe.

## Jaguar picks up speed

Jaguar celebrates 60 years in business with two new XJS models. The 4.0i coupe, with special wheels and interior trim, is £38,950, while a 2plus2 convertible will be in showrooms at £45,950. XJS sales were up 21 per cent last year and are booming, particularly in the United States.

## Spanish go-ahead

Ford has spent more than £400 million on a new plant at Valencia in Spain to make engines for the company's range of small cars. The first engines will be 1.25 litres in size and probably destined for Ford's new mini-model, the Ka, which is also being built at Valencia. Twice as efficient as traditional plants, Valencia will make an extra 450,000 engines a year.

## Take Friday off the road

If you are reading this from the comfort of your armchair and not a hospital bed, then you avoided the most dangerous day of the week. Churchill Insurance says Friday is when most accidents happen on the roads, accounting for 17 per cent of crashes. Sunday is the safest day. The insurer warns that tired drivers leaving work at the end of a tough week is the probable cause for Friday crashes.

## Mazda cover into next century

Mazda is extending warranties to five years or 100,000 miles, the first company to do so in Britain. This means that owners of new Mazdas will be covered into the next century.

## Living room with a lethal touch

Comfortable cars make us forget the dangers, warns Kevin Eason

a map on the steering wheel as he drove his Volkswagen Golf GTI at up to 115mph on the M5 in the West Midlands.

The RAC recommends all mobile phones in cars are "hands free" and tells drivers to plan their routes before they set off.

Edmund King, RAC campaigns manager, says: "We've all seen people doing it. Modern cars are so pleasant and welcoming, drivers settle down and relax, and forget

what speeds they are doing and the fact that they are supposed to be in control. But motorists simply must not allow themselves to be lulled into a false sense of security. They might feel they are invincible sitting at the wheel, but they are not and accidents happen at those very moments when drivers are not concentrating or they are fiddling about with equipment that should not distract them."

The RAC says drivers should pull over to make a phone call or study the map. Better still, make all arrangements before you set out.

Human error is the fault in an estimated nine in ten accidents, according to the AA, high enough for drivers to need to carry out a MoT test on themselves as much as their cars.

Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety, says: "Motorsists should routinely ask themselves questions. If a pattern emerges of careless, risky behaviour behind the wheel, drivers should reassess their attitude and look at how they can change."

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The Times offers you the chance to win the new MGF. Simply collect six tokens to enter our prize draw.

You may enter as many times as you wish, but must attach your tokens to the official application form, which will be printed from time to time.

Send your tokens to: The Times MG Competition, 11 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 3NG. The competition closes on May 27.





Ros Lewis asks you to work out your levels of driving tension and then suggests ways to relieve it

# A very de-stressing experience

Sitting properly, good back support, and doing the correct exercises can help you to keep your cool in a car

Driving gets most of us in a stew. Being stuck in traffic jams, tailgated, cut up or driving against the clock, all these are common incidents that cause stress, and in the extreme will cause road ragers to commit violence against fellow drivers.

Under stress our heart rate increases, blood pressure rises, general senses are heightened, and oxygen is sent to our muscles to get them ready to go. Alas, as the driver still has to sit in the car all that energy and anger cannot go anywhere.

The stressed-out driver will at worst drive erratically and at best get more and more frustrated as incidents occur. Obviously, it would be a lot better for everyone if drivers could stop getting stressed in the first place.

Psychologists who have studied driving agree that driving in itself can be a stressful activity. And there are, according to Dr Ian Glendon, of Aston University, several common themes in how we experience stress whilst on the road. Weekly commuters tend to feel that driving is more stressful in the evening than in the morning, and that mid-week driving is more stressful than at the weekends.

Dr Glendon's studies have also found five factors that cause us to feel particular stress: a person's own aggressive feelings about driving; dislike of driving; heightened alertness and concentration associated with driving; tension and frustration when overtaking (both successfully and unsuccessfully); irritation when overtaken.

So given that most of us do feel stressed whilst driving, and that we react differently, and we all carry differing levels of stress anyway, what can be done to ease our minds and bodies?

First, keep a diary recording a week's driving. Rate each day for the amount of stress you felt during different times of the day, and on different days. Note what kind of events wind you up the most, how often you were in difficult situations, and how you normally handled that event. Also write down how stressed you were feeling in general, and see if that is affecting how you handle your driving.

Psychologists broadly define the stressful personality in terms of types "A" and "B". "A" tends towards aggressive, pushy, over-taking-at-all-costs behaviour. "B" is more relaxed, patient, able to take

things more slowly. If you are an "A" take time to work at reducing your stress levels.

Psychologists think that just as we have our personal space zone — areas of invisible space around our bodies that we don't like being invaded — we have our own personal space requirements around our cars.

So we get mad when others are on our tail, or we are cut up by an overtaking car because our space is being invaded. To cope with these momentary stressful episodes, try mentally projecting or visualising your car space zone as a large, protective coloured bubble of light. If somebody gets too near, just imagine that they are still outside your "bubble". And if just cut up, redraw your "bubble" as whole.

Improving your posture Start by learning how to sit

and drive with as little tension in your body as possible. Being able consciously to release the build-up of physical tension will help you deal with stress. Follow these guidelines given by the Alexander Technique, a well-known method of reducing physical tension mainly through improving posture.

Make sure you are sitting well, with a good back support. Ideally you should be able to feel your bottom supported — not sagging into a squidgy mess. Think of your back as being nice and long against the car seat.

Try keeping your neck relaxed, head poised on top of the spine. Pay attention to how you use your eyes — wrong mirror positions can cause neck tension. Also try rolling your eyes up and down and from side to side after a long stretch of driving, to relieve neck and facial tension.

Your feet and legs should not strain to reach the pedals, so adjust the seat where necessary. Knees should neither be banging against the steering wheel or too straightened out. Your thighs should be supported by the seat too. Keep your left foot flat on the floor between gear changes — to help release the ankle joints — and try to rest the right foot as well in the same way at traffic lights.

Your hands should rest on the steering wheel, not grip it manically. Try softening the fingers so that they curl round the wheel, then making sure your arms are relaxed and your shoulders are not up to your ears.



Top: A sure recipe for stress: hunched shoulders, tight grip on the wheel. Below: relaxed, sit well back, ensure the spine is supported

## Traffic jams

Get interested in your posture as a way of coping with traffic jams. Also, try this breathing exercise: smile, let your jaw hinge open, place the tip of the tongue at the bottom of the lower teeth, and let a whis-

pered 'ah' sound come out. This is good for breathing and used by Alexander teachers to get people to breathe and speak more easily.

During traffic jams, gently massage your temples and eyebrows with your thumbs

and fingers. If you are getting tense, try breathing deeply, and massage the back of your neck, paying particular attention to the base of the skull.

When you get the chance, stop and go for a brisk walk — exercise will defuse your stress

levels. And for relaxing in-car music, try Time to Relax (CRS Records £6.99, W.H. Smith) or self-improvement tapes from New World Cassettes (0198 678 1682), which will transform your traffic jam time into a de-stressing experience.

Is overwork driving you to change your car far too often?

Stop raging and smile, says stress counsellor

Stressed-out motorists are chopping and changing their cars in an effort to soothe their frazzled nerves. The car-swap syndrome is a key symptom of drivers unable to cope with the pressures and tensions of their personal and professional lives, experts believe.

Behind the urge to trade in one car and get behind the wheel of yet another one, is stress. Changing one's car — like swapping hairstyles — gives those suffering from stress the illusion that they are once again in control of their runaway lives, says Duncan Christie-Miller, whose company Integrated Project Management advises clients including Renault on tackling stress at work.

Christie-Miller, former Extra Equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh and former Commanding Officer of the Royal Marines Officers' Training, where he gained invaluable experience dealing with stress, says: "Stress is not an illness in itself, but a syndrome of the illness that leads to changes in behaviour."

"The problem is in identifying the signs of stress. That is difficult, since people camouflage those symptoms because they believe stress is a sign of weakness."

Particularly for stressed male executives, one tell-tale sign is the constant browsing through car brochures in the hunt for a car to replace the vehicle that has only just arrived on their drive.

Christie-Miller says: "People are more prone to change their vehicles when they are distressed. Those facing marital problems, who are over-worked, bereaved, who are under-valued, have a propensity to seek the instant gratification that a new car can bring."

"People who have problems at work, for instance with overwork, have a tendency to say they are going to change their life, and many do it by changing their car. Men under stress change their characters quite a lot. If they are unhappy they might buy a very visible symbol of male power and virility."

"In days gone by, perhaps, people might have bought themselves a new horse to give themselves that feeling of power and relief. Today, the pleasure that a new car brings does not last that long. To solve the problem of stress more radical changes in total life-style are needed."

As well as making motoring a very expensive pastime, stress also accounts for about 40 million lost working days every year. Christie-Miller advises those suffering from stress and its symptoms to organise their time more efficiently, exercise in a non-competitive way three times a week, and not to rage at other motorists out on the road.

Rather than shouting and gesticulating at the infuriating antics of other road-users, he recommends a simple smile: "It really does work and achieves instant results."

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

## NEWS SUMMARY

### Cheap and filling

Southend-on-Sea is the cheapest fuel-stop in Britain, according to PHH Allstar. The company checked transactions by 500,000 drivers to discover that the Essex seaside town offered unleaded and four-star petrol 12p below the national average of £2.44 and £2.69. Diesel was also 15p cheaper at £2.31. Dover remains most expensive for four-star and unleaded.

### Daewoo takes the lead

Daewoo, the ambitious South Korean carmaker, shot into the sales charts in its first month in Britain with 1,503 sales, 1.08 per cent of the industry's April registrations, ahead of Mazda, Mitsubishi, Proton and Seat among others.

### Meals instead of wheels

Citroën has turned one of its old factories into a theme restaurant (00 31 45 57 89 14) next to the Parc André Citroën, named after the company founder.

### Renault adds extras

Renault has poured features into the Clio Champs Elysees special edition, which gets a 60-watt hi-fi with compact disc player, alloy wheels and the offer of zero per cent finance, all for £9,790 (three-door) and £10,195 (five-door).

### Sales on track

Jonathan Palmer, former McLaren-Honda test driver and the voice of motor racing on BBC, has been hired to take would-be buyers of Honda's 170mph NSX sports car on white-knuckle rides around the Bruntingthorpe circuit in Leicestershire to promote lagging sales of the NSX.

### New addition

Cliff Richard, evergreen entertainer, has invested in a £19,000 Renault Espace RT turbo-diesel. The people-carrier joins a Rolls-Royce, Range Rover and a Mercedes SL sports (registration MOVE IT) in the Bachelor Boy's fleet.

### On yer bike

Live like a Royal for a day — at up to £80 an hour — with a chauffeur-driven car from Jack Barday, the world's biggest Rolls-Royce dealer. Unfortunately, there is also a £2-a-mile charge too. Never mind, back to the bike.

The car equivalent of a jumble sale, the autojumble, is on this weekend

## Everything but the car boot

If you have been searching for a missing hubcap, hankering after a chrome mascot or desperate for a manual to service your prized classic, this could be the weekend you strike lucky.

For today and tomorrow, the grounds of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire, will be filled with more than 750 stands selling just about every conceivable car part, from ashtrays to cylinder blocks and probably a number of unrecognisable relics, too.

The Spring Classic Autojumble marks the start of the classic car season, when cherished vehicles are taken out of winter storage, spruced up and readied for another summer on the open road. It is an ideal opportunity for the owner who wants to buy their much-loved motor a little something extra.

The stallholders are an extraordinary bunch known as "autojumblers". "Some are real characters. The only trouble is they will never admit to having a good day. When we go round and ask how they got on they always just say 'OK'. But they nearly always come back," Lesley Ann Harnett, of Beaulieu, says.

"We will have lots of traditional junk. I hate to call it junk because to somebody else it's treasure." Where these characters get their stock is frequently a closely guarded



Autojumblers: A breed apart who keep sources secret

secret. There are obviously still a surprising number of ill-considered trinkets lurking in garages and scrapyards around Britain.

This year's autojumble will have a number of other features. On Saturday evening

there is a Christie's auction of collectors' cars featuring a rather special Renault. The 1906 20/30hp limousine was the first car bought by Lord Montagu when he founded the museum in 1953. Owned until then by the Christian family

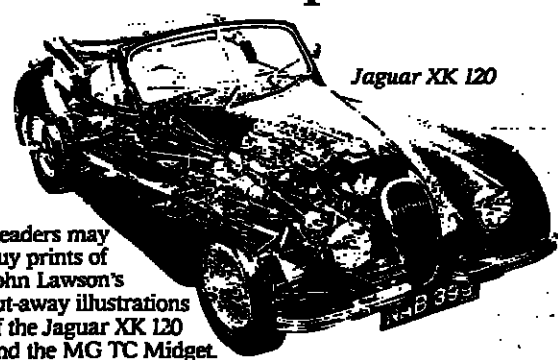
from nearby Otterbourne in Hampshire, its towering coachwork made it too tall for exhibition inside Beaulieu and it was kept in the estate yard in the village and brought to the museum for display on fine days. Its unusual coachwork was built to its original owner's design to accommodate his habit of driving in a top hat. The interior is modelled on that of a first-class French railway carriage.

Lord Montagu says: "The decision to part with the car has not been taken lightly. Recently, the National Motor Museum has received the bequest of an almost identical 14hp Renault Laundette that was made for Queen Alexandra and was later used by King George V. Due to a shortage of space, both cars cannot be kept and displayed at the museum."

Admission to the sale is strictly by catalogue. Admission to the rest of the autojumble goes along with admission to the museum and Palace House. It is billed as Britain's "second largest autojumble" and is expected to attract more than 15,000 visitors — the largest is the International Autojumble also held at Beaulieu in September, which features more than 2,000 stalls and brings in more than 40,000 visitors.

ALAN COPPS

## THE TIMES Historic car print offer



Readers may buy prints of John Lawson's cut-away illustrations of the Jaguar XK 120 and the MG TC Midget. The prints are available in two forms:

- Unframed, 297mm by 420mm, on 130gm paper. Price £3.99 including VAT and carriage.
- A limited edition of 250 prints signed by Lawson and Lord Montagu, on 170gm paper, 297mm by 420mm plus a 6cm border and in a choice of four frames. Price £29.99 including VAT and carriage. For queries, phone 0843-602717.

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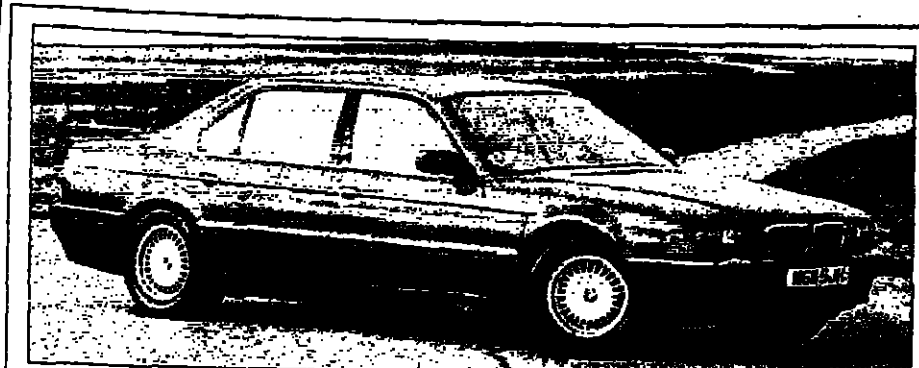
**£2 OFF CAR SHOW AT BEAULIEU**

An exhibition of all 12 cars featured by Lord Montagu and sponsored by Car 95 is running until the end of September at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Present this panel at the gate and one adult will get a £2 reduction on the full admission price. The museum is also hosting a two-day spring classic autojumble today and tomorrow. For further details call 01990 612345.









Top of the range: BMW expects to sell 125 of the £69,000 750Li in Britain this year

**Luxury market gets a new lease of life**

Rumours of the death of the luxury car are premature. It has been diagnosed fit, well and with a life expectancy well into the next century, at least by BMW, which expects to take 125 British orders, worth £9 million, for its range-topping 750Li this year. The company is confident it will sell even more of the 5.4-litre V12s in this country next year (Anthony Lewis writes).

Demand for luxury cars — and BMW counts its competitors in this class as Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz and even Bentley — peaked at 18,000 in 1988, and has since declined by half. However, sales in the sector this year are already up by 40 per cent, thanks largely to Jaguar's revitalised XJ series, but with BMW holding a firm second place.

It's a rarefied world of motoring, and if you've ever wondered what life at the top is like, I can tell you that it's really rather pleasant.

The extra five-and-a-half inches in length which the 750Li boasts over the standard 7-series are only really apparent when you open the larger rear doors, to be greeted by acres of plush carpet, leather and leg space.

The rear seats are electrically adjustable and heated; there are blinds on the rear window (electric, of course) and on the side windows, which are double-glazed for extra quietness.

As you would expect from BMW, the car is a technological tour de force, boasting more computer power than it probably took to fly man to the moon. The automatic air-conditioning can

telephone that works throughout Europe and has a 145-number memory. The television, which will not work when the car is moving for obvious safety reasons, also has access to televised news services, so senior executives on the move need never be out of touch with stock market prices, news or even the weather.

When you've played with all the toys you can go for a drive and enjoy the 326bhp available from the 5.4-litre V12 engine, even on wet mountain roads, thanks to the latest generation anti-skid system that prevents understeer or oversteer by limiting power output, even applying brakes to individual wheels if necessary to help keep you on the straight and narrow.

The 750Li is uncannily quiet and easy to drive. There were moments when I wished I could have heard the glorious roar of the V12 more clearly. The five-speed automatic gearbox adapts itself to individual driving styles, and you only need to turn the key briefly to the start position to activate the electronics which will then start the engine automatically.

While life at the top might be tough, it obviously has its compensations. Put the chauffeur on half pay and enjoy not just the luxury and comfort but the sheer dynamic brilliance of BMW's finest.

The 750Li costs £69,450; a standard wheelbase 750i is £64,450. For £54,000, there's a long wheelbase 740Li using a 4.0-litre V8 engine with a reduced specification.

There's a built-in digital

Hilton Holloway on why there is such demand for BMW's mould-breaking Compact

# Hatch open to a lucky few

I have just spent a week in what I think is Britain's most exclusive car. An Aston Martin, a Ferrari, the mythical McLaren F1? No — a BMW. And what's more, the company's cheapest model, yours for as little as £13,650.

Or at least it would be, if you could find one for sale. The BMW Compact, launched here last October, is probably the nation's most sought-after new car. Stride into a dealer and slap down the cash and it's unlikely you'll be able to deal. The waiting list currently runs into the autumn, and rumours abound in the trade of hefty premiums being paid on second-hand Compacts, especially the up-market 318Ti.

So what's all the fuss about? Well, the Compact is basically a shortened (by 9in) 3-series saloon, given three doors, a handy hatchback and, thanks to the unchanged wheelbase, the same amount of interior space. It's also the first BMW hatch since the short-lived 2002 Touring of the mid-1970s and the only rear-wheel drive hatchback on the market.

The Compact delivers what hasn't been around for a few years: practical prestige. Since the demise of the little Mk2 Golf and the equally understated old-shape BMW 3-series, the one-time yuppie car has all but disappeared, rather like the yuppie. However, in tune with the young and upwardly mobile of the 1990s, the Compact is utterly discreet. It's also sensibly (though modestly) powered, beautifully made and all the contemporary safety and environmental accoutrements are standard (airbag, ABS, side impact bars, immobiliser). Furthermore, because it's not a "hot hatch", the insurance grouping is a manageable 10.

Oddly, the public and the mainstream motoring press are at odds over the desirability of the Compact. After trumpeting its arrival, enthusiast hacks have become rather sniffy about the cut-down Beamer, partly because they



"It's a winner": Roger Sedgwick-Rough, who normally drives a Porsche RS or Audi S2, was won over by the BMW

felt it was a compromise version of the bigger saloon. So who's right? Has the public been sold a glossy dummy or is the Compact the definitive car for the 90s, as sales on the Continent would suggest? I borrowed a basic 316i to find out.

I loved it, and everybody who encountered the Compact fell for its discreet charm. Its main advantage over the opposition is that it is a less expensive version of an upmarket range; rivals tend to be dressed-up versions of budget cars. Consequently, the Compact possesses a superbly weighted quality feel that nothing else can touch at this price. Everything from the beautifully designed steering wheel to the engine bay layout

shouts class. True, the truncated rear can look a little odd, but it does house a useful-sized boot without encroaching on passenger space at the back.

Fit and finish is immaculate, as is the design philosophy. The new dashboard is a lesson in crisp logic.

Come cutting? Well, the push-pull light switches look and feel out of place, but aside from that, the Compact makes the inside of other hatches look either hopelessly dated or gimmicky. In and out of town, it was hard to criticise the car. Those crucial 9in of the tail make squeezing into

supermini-sized parking spaces that much easier and it looks so appealing amid the ranks of everyday hatches. This is a shopping trolley with presence. On the motorway, it was far flatter than the modest 102bhp might suggest, the Autobahn-bred high speed cruising ability shining through.

Roger Sedgwick-Rough, an enthusiast with a taste for German exotica, gave the Compact a thumbs-up after warming up in his 1973 Porsche 911 RS. "It's a lovely car. It feels so solid and handles beautifully. It's going to be a winner."

The BMW wasn't even shamed by his Audi S2 estate in terms of perceived quality. Roger's Golf-owning and hard-driving niece, Claudia, was bowled over. "I love it the sound of the engine, the solidity and the room and comfort in the back. It's very subtle and doesn't say 'I'm flash'. I want one — now."

Just 5,000 Compacts, which come with a three-year warranty, will be imported this year, and the car is likely to hold its value better than any other on the UK market. In three years time, sold privately, you could get as much as 89 per cent of your money back, according to one trade magazine. A mainstream hot hatch is unlikely to retain more than 50 per cent.


**BMW**

318i 1.8 16V, 10000 miles, £13,500. 318i 2.0 16V, 10000 miles, £14,500. 318i 2.5 16V, 10000 miles, £15,500. 318i 3.0 16V, 10000 miles, £16,500. 318i 3.5 16V, 10000 miles, £17,500. 318i 4.0 16V, 10000 miles, £18,500. 318i 5.0 16V, 10000 miles, £19,500. 318i 6.0 16V, 10000 miles, £20,500. 318i 7.0 16V, 10000 miles, £21,500. 318i 8.0 16V, 10000 miles, £22,500. 318i 9.0 16V, 10000 miles, £23,500. 318i 10.0 16V, 10000 miles, £24,500. 318i 11.0 16V, 10000 miles, £25,500. 318i 12.0 16V, 10000 miles, £26,500. 318i 13.0 16V, 10000 miles, £27,500. 318i 14.0 16V, 10000 miles, £28,500. 318i 15.0 16V, 10000 miles, £29,500. 318i 16.0 16V, 10000 miles, £30,500. 318i 17.0 16V, 10000 miles, £31,500. 318i 18.0 16V, 10000 miles, £32,500. 318i 19.0 16V, 10000 miles, £33,500. 318i 20.0 16V, 10000 miles, £34,500. 318i 21.0 16V, 10000 miles, £35,500. 318i 22.0 16V, 10000 miles, £36,500. 318i 23.0 16V, 10000 miles, £37,500. 318i 24.0 16V, 10000 miles, £38,500. 318i 25.0 16V, 10000 miles, £39,500. 318i 26.0 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 Tugada Green/Velago, 247 \$16,950  
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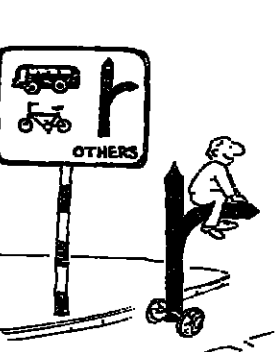


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CAR 95

CAR...TOONS



GED MELLING

Hi-tech systems are being needlessly replaced at high cost, reports Vaughan Freeman

Garages in computer 'con'

Garages have been accused of "blinding motorists with science" and overcharging them by hundreds of pounds to replace needlessly or repair parts, especially computer components.

The claim, by company car firm Fleet Management Services, comes as the AA reveals that poor workmanship by garages is the biggest worry for motorists, accounting for 40 per cent of all complaints to the AA's technical advice department.

Derick Perkins, maintenance control director at Fleet Management Services, says many garages are not spending enough on training. "Courses are available on auto electronic diagnostic skills but these are not being taken up in great numbers," he said. "Garages are continuing to keep training as a low priority — a habit learned during the recession — and prefer to replace an on-board computer rather than educate staff on how to diagnose the fault."

The upshot is that the motorist has to pay for the mechanic's ignorance of automotive electronics. Bills range from £60 to £300 for the replacement of an electronic ignition system, to £800 for a fuel injection computer, or well over £1,000 for an engine control unit.

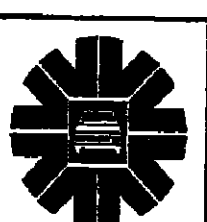
"Considering the investment main dealers make in providing specialist test equipment, it is disappointing that often they train only one person to operate that equipment."

The concern goes beyond electronic and computer-related repairs. The AA's Consumer Protection for Motorists report, published in association with the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, says: "There is a small minority of garages which, because of shoddy workman-

ship and deceitful practices, gives the trade a bad name.

"Implicit in many of the comments made by chief trading standards officers is the feeling that motorists may have of losing control as they hand over the keys. Increasingly, consumers are suspecting car servicing is not being carried out correctly. In particular, they suspect dishonesty in overstating repair work that needs to be done."

"There has probably been an increase in complaints about the fitting of unnecessary parts at service depots. The norm seems to be that a fitter, while renewing an ex-



Retail Motor Industry Federation

haust or fitting a new tyre, will report that the shock absorbers need replacing."

To reassure motorists and members, the AA has just

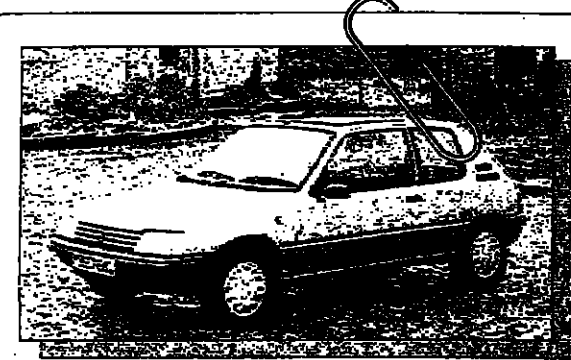
announced a radical shake-up of its system for approving and vetting garages. Under its new Approved Garage scheme, premises will be vetted twice a year to ensure the highest standards of service at the fairest price.

Chris Warwick, AA technical services manager, said: "Each garage outlet will be inspected and assessed on its own merits, which means there will be no blanket approval for chains."

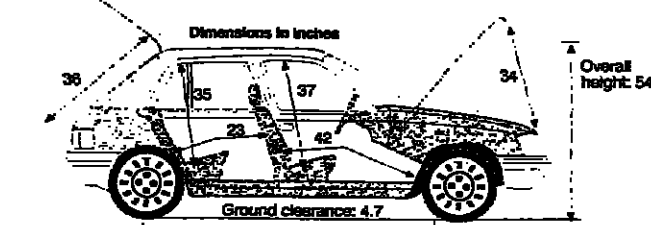
The Retail Motor Industry Federation has 12,500 members, who are checked regular-

ly. Spokeswoman Sue Robinson says: "By using a garage that is an RMIF member, motorists can, if there is a problem, approach our national conciliation service for negotiated redress."

RMIF members have to meet standards set by us, and abide by our code of practice and our quality control. From the consumers' point of view, it is clearly in their interests to use an RMIF garage to reduce the chance of problems in the first place, and give them a come-back should there be any disagreements."



PEUGEOT 205 More than 11 years after the Peugeot 205 was introduced, the car still looks modern and full of zest. Its style and design has had a clear influence on rival models, as well as on its Peugeot 106 and 306 successors. Launched in five-door form originally with 1.0, 1.1, 1.4, and 1.6-litre petrol engines, as well as a 1.8-litre diesel. The three-door 205 and 205i models first arrived in 1985, and in 1987 came the 1000hp, 1.9-litre GTI, a car with clean performance and now much sought after. Cosmetic changes introduced in 1990 included new bumpers and rear panels.



USED CAR BRIEF

- GOOD NEWS:** Considered one of the best small cars ever. A stylish car with a wide range of engines, and a reputation as being fun to drive. Used values hold up well and the 1.8-litre diesel in particular 'runs for ever'.
- BAD NEWS:** The sporting reputation of the GTI and its storming performance means such cars must be checked carefully for crash damage. Also make sure insurance premiums are not prohibitively high.
- PRICE RANGE:** Expect to pay around 1,750 for a 1985 1.0-litre three-door, 3,750 for a 1989 1.4 GT five-door, 6,500 for a 1987 1.8 three-door, and 5,500 for a 1991 J-reg GTI.
- INSURANCE:** Fully comprehensive cover from 1985 to 1991 will cost a 35-year old male or female professional, with full no claims bonus, living in Winchester, £99 a year. A 22-year old male with one year no claims living in South London will pay £762, and a similar 22-year old female will pay £895.
- SAFETY:** In its mid and super mid-range class the 205 is one of only three cars (the others are the Renault 5 and the Yugo) to score significantly above the category average for safety according to Department of Transport figures.
- REPLACEMENT PARTS:** Full exhaust £145; rear shock absorber £165; front brake pads £40; alternator £120; starter motor £115; tyre 545-60.
- TO AVOID:** Special editions which though they may have carried a price premium when new, in some cases could be worth less when used than the equivalent basic model. Under-powered 1.0 and 1.1-litre cars, pre-1986 models with disintegrating trim. Double-check spare wheel which is suspended beneath boot and vulnerable to thieves.
- LOOK FOR:** Eye-catching Roland Garros special edition three-door and cabriolet models. These might cost between £250 and £350 more than the standard 1.1-litre car, but dark green metallic paint, low profile tyres and sports seats with leather trim, plus luxury specification make them desirable.
- OVERALL:** An annoying but not a problem on the fuel injection models has done little to tarnish the strong reputation of the 205 as an excellent town car, with room for four, and ride, handling, and looks, that are superior to the norm.

USED CARS £15,000 - £25,000

MODEL	PRICE	Apr-95-May-95	Chge
Volvo 850 2.0 20V GLT Estate	17395	16850	-313
Subaru Legacy 2.0 4 cam Estate	16650	16650	0
Saab 900 16V Convertible	18095	17750	-1.9
Vauxhall Frontera 2.3 5dr	15150	15150	0
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 5dr	15065	14550	-3.61
Honda Prelude 2.0 2dr	15295	15295	0
Ford Granada 2.9 Ghia Auto Estate	15450	14995	-2.94
Vauxhall Omega 2.0 GLS Auto 4dr	17150	16850	-1.74
Nissan Patrol GR 2.5 5dr	19795	19795	0
Mitsubishi Sigma Auto 4dr	18150	17595	-3.06
Mercedes-Benz C180 Classic Auto 4dr	17995	17995	0
Audi 100 2.0E Quattro Saloon	17950	17890	-0.55
BMW 320i 4dr Auto	22250	22250	0
BMW 525i 4dr Auto	15895	15650	-2.06
Citroen XM 204i Turbo Estate Auto	16095	16395	2.05
Ford Maverick 2.7 GLX T/D 5dr	24000	23750	-1.04
Honda Legend 4dr Saloon Auto	17950	18095	0.8
Isuzu Trooper 3.2i 5dr	17950	17350	-3.34
Land Rover Discovery Diesel 3dr	18095	17450	-3.56
Mazda Xedos 6 2.0i V6 SE 4dr Auto	23550	22500	-5.52
Mazda RX-7 Turbo	23050	22250	-3.65
Mitsubishi Shogun V6 5dr 2972cc	22500	22500	0
Peugeot 605 V6 SVE 4dr Auto	15595	15595	0
Renault Espace 2.0 RT Estate 5dr	15595	15795	0.97
Renault Safrane 3.0 RXE V6 5dr Auto	18350	18350	0
Rover Sterling Saloon 4dr Auto	18795	18795	0
Saab New 900 2.5 V6 SE 5dr	15750	15795	0.28
Subaru Impreza Turbo 2000	19295	18795	-5.93
Toyota New Camry 3.0 V6 4dr Auto	18995	18895	-0.52
Toyota Landcruiser 11 3dr Turbo-D	18995	18795	-1.17
Vauxhall Omega 2.0i 16V CD Estate	18695	18250	-2.36
Volkswagen Corrado VR6 3dr Coupe	16595	16795	1.4
Volkswagen New Golf 2.8 VR6 5dr	18495	18195	-1.62
Volvo 940 Diesel GLE Turbo 4dr	15750	15995	0.92
Audi New 2.0E Estate 5dr	19395	19550	0.79
BMW 520i Touring Estate Auto	15650	15950	1.91
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDX Ind. 3dr	22500	22500	0
Mercedes-Benz E250 4dr	20250	19495	-3.72
Land Rover Discovery 3.9 V8i S 5dr	20000	19895	-1.13
Isuzu Trooper Citation 3.1 5dr D	18650	17695	-6.12
Saab CDE 2.0i Eco power 4dr	14995	14795	-1.33
Honda New Accord 2.3i SR 4dr Auto	20500	20500	0
Chrysler Jeep Cherokee 4.0 Ld 5dr	15295	15295	0
Chrysler Cherokee 2.5 sport 5dr	20500	20500	0
Mercedes-Benz C200 Elegance	20500	20500	0

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer discount prices. HB = hatchback, S = saloon. Price changes based on 1-reg. low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP National Motor Research.

ONE of Britain's biggest dealers is taking steps to cancel out "clockers", rogues who swindle motorists by turning back the milometer to hike up used car prices.

Reg Vardy, based in Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, is to log the mileage of every car it services and sells. The figures go onto a computer database so that Vardy salesmen and mechanics can track the history of a model from the start to the end of its life.

Vardy, which sells 60,000 cars a year, is the first motor group to use the system, in association with HPI-Equifax, which will be available at all its 34 showrooms, plus another five opening this year.

Clocking costs motorists an estimated £100 million a year as they are sold cars which, according to the mileage reading, are good as new but, in fact, have been driven huge numbers of miles. While the bodywork of a modern model can look new, the engine might have suffered enormous wear.

Peter Vardy, chairman, says: "We maintain tens of thousands of vehicles, including cars being prepared for sale. By providing mileage readings on these vehicles, we are taking a step which will assist the fight against clocking, and setting a standard we hope the rest of the industry will follow."

RENAULT

TOP DISCOUNTS on all New Renaults. Call New Car Centre 0181 966 4400. Mon-Fri

ESPACE 2001 Injection, 1990, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £15,995. 0181 966 4400

ESPACE RT Diesel, turbo 941, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

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1988 8 Bentley 8 Deep Ocean Blue/Magnolia Leather, FSH, 92k, CD Player, 100,000 miles, £15,995. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 1989, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

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BENTLEY 8 2019, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 2020, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 2021, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 2022, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 2023, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 2024, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 2025, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

BENTLEY 8 2026, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

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BENTLEY 8 2038, 1600 cc, 110 bhp, 17,000 miles, £16,750. 0181 966 4400

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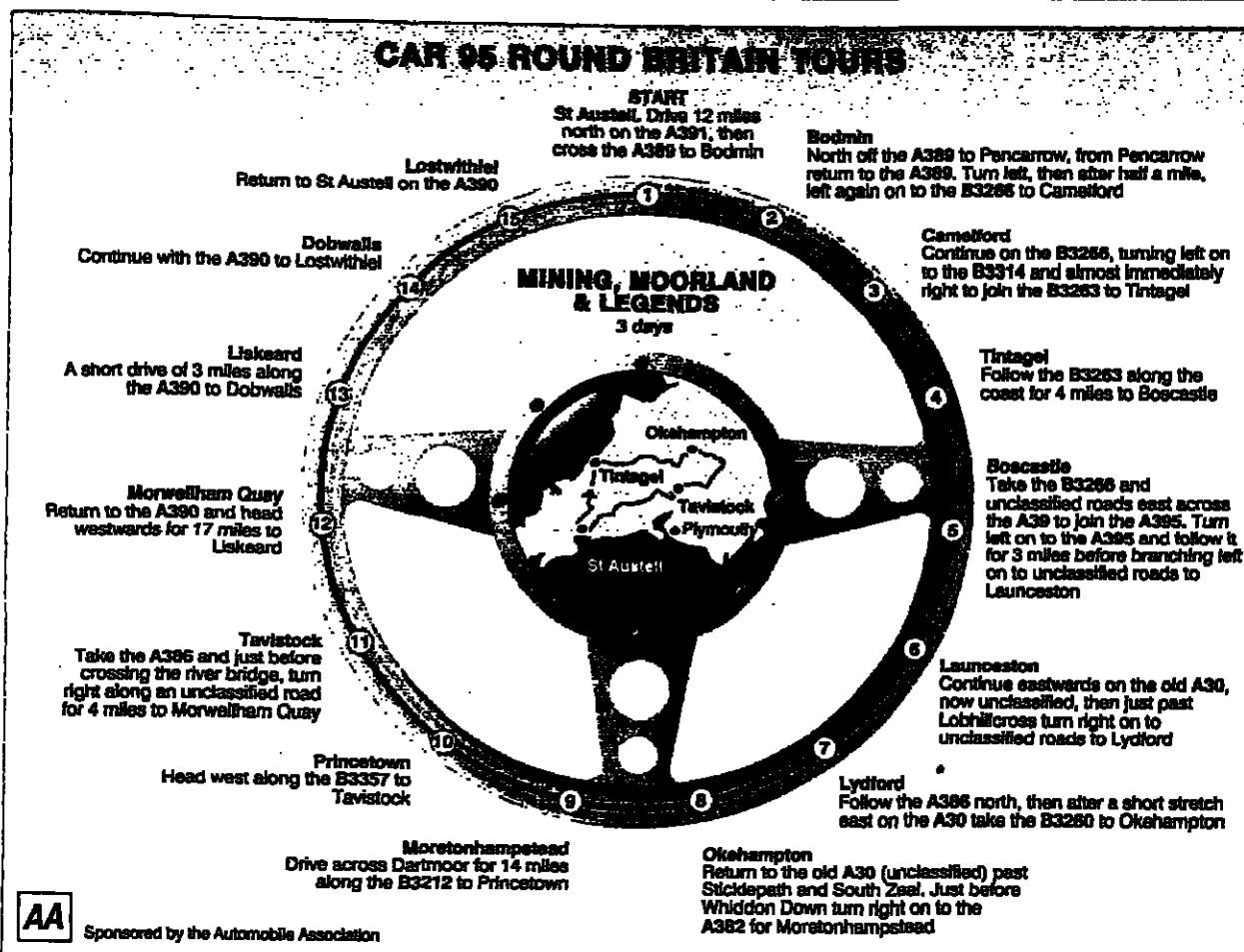








Alan Copps continues our weekly guides with a gentle jaunt around the charms of Devon and Cornwall



Part of the ruins of "King Arthur's Castle" at Tintagel, a diamond in the tour area's rich vein of history

This tour passes through some of the most popular holiday country in Britain. Yet its initial stages after leaving the old market town of St Austell run across a landscape of almost lunar desolation.

For this is the centre of the china clay industry. A must stop is the Wheal Martyn museum, housed in a restored 19th-century clay works, which explains vividly how the landscape was created. The road leads on to Bodmin, the only Cornish town mentioned in the Domesday Book, which nestles below its brooding moor where the traces of history mingle with the modern myth of the "best of Bodmin". Pencarrow House has impressive flower gardens, a pet's corner for children and an Iron Age encampment.

This area is steeped in

## Through lunar landscapes to the land of legend

Arthurian legend and there are some who press the case that Camelot is really Camelot. The spectacular ruins of Tintagel Castle on a windy promontory are also known as "King Arthur's Castle". There are caverns and a waterfall in the dramatic slate cliffs of the "island", which is really a peninsula.

The atmosphere at Boscawen is dominated by the sea. Its harbour nestles among high cliffs and the sea tide and river occasionally meet explosively just beyond the outer breakwater.

At Launceston, the south

gate is the only reminder that this was once a walled town enclosing the ruins of its castle. It has interesting churches and a steam railway that runs into the Kenney valley. Nearby is the Tamar Otter Park, where this rare creature can be seen at close quarters, and the Wild Wood where deer and peacocks roam.

The route now crosses into Devon and returns to mining country, although at Lydford the prize was once tin rather than china clay. Its another of those settlements nestled beneath a castle on the edge of a

moor. A mile away is Lydford Gorge, scooped out of the Dartmoor landscape by the river Lyd near the 90-foot White Lady Falls.

Okehampton also has its castle ruins, which guard the highest part of Dartmoor, often used for military exercises. The Museum of Dartmoor is housed in an old watermill and has informative sections on the mining past and Victorian life.

On the road to Moretonhampstead, close to the heart of Dartmoor, stands

the granite mass of Castle Drogo, designed by Edward Lutyens. Further on, at Postbridge, stands the best of the old clapper bridges used by pack horses to carry ore from the mines. But the granite mass which dominates this part of Dartmoor is the prison in Princetown, a forbidding edifice in a bleak place. Tavistock, birthplace of Sir Francis Drake, was also a mining centre and although largely Victorian, has several interesting older buildings. Some of its mining products were exported via Morwellham Quay, which

stands 350ft above the water level and is linked to the river by a curious inclined plane. In Victorian times, it was the most important copper port of the Empire. It is now an impressive open-air museum.

The route now heads back into Cornwall, where there is plenty of entertainment for children. Just outside Liskeard, at St Keyne Station, Paul Corin's Musical Collection includes fairground organs and a mighty Wurlitzer, while further on is the highly-rated Dobwalls theme park.

Our tour ends at

### DR DASHBOARD

## How to help reduce smog

**Q** All this talk about pollution from exhausts is worrying. We need the car but is there any way we can help cut down smog and pollution?

**A** There is an obvious answer but you don't want to hear it: don't use the car unless you have to. The less you drive, the less pollution your exhaust pumps out.

**Q** That is no help because we have to use the car for so many journeys, such as school runs and getting to work.

**A** That is because dependency on the car has never been greater. The 1994 Lex Report on Motoring discovered four in ten households had more than one car and motorists expected to buy an extra million vehicles in the next two years. Total road mileage could grow by 30 per cent within five years, so more cars on already congested roads looks to be the future.

**Q** What sort of pollution do cars cause anyway?

**A** The gases from the exhaust are a complex cocktail, and it is oxides of nitrogen and unburnt hydrocarbons which cause photochemical smog - the grey fog which has triggered asthma attacks and breathing difficulties in thousands of people over the past couple of weeks. Scientists are also worried about diesel fumes which contain sooty particles, thought to be a carcinogen.

**Q** But we thought diesel cars were more environmentally friendly. All our friends are raving about how economical they are.

**A** They are almost right. Actually, the Govern-

ment's health boffins have reservations about diesel because they believe it could be responsible for considerable pollution problems. Diesels use, on average, 25 per cent less fuel than petrol cars, but many new petrol cars with lean-burn engines are almost as economical.

**Q** Does that mean we should stick to petrol?

**A** Diesels are fine but only the latest cars will be relatively clean. Petrol engines are extremely clean if they are equipped with a catalytic converter, which soaks up 90 per cent of toxic engine gases, particularly nitrogen oxides and unburnt hydrocarbons. Some car-makers, such as Saab, boast that the air that comes out of the tailpipe is cleaner than the air that goes in.

**Q** So what practical steps can we take to help?

**A** If you go to the same office every day, share a car with two or three colleagues. Same for the school run: there must be many parents who make the same trip, so why use several cars when one will do?

**Q** Even if we do that, we still have to use a car and presumably cause pollution.

**A** Keep your car well tuned because un serviced cars are dirty, use more fuel and pump out more pollution. Diesels also need care and attention or they will foul up and start emitting ugly clouds of smoke. Short journeys in petrol cars are less fuel-efficient, because catalysts do not warm up in time to catch the worst pollutants, whereas diesel cars tend to be better around town. Better still, try something we doctors describe as walking.

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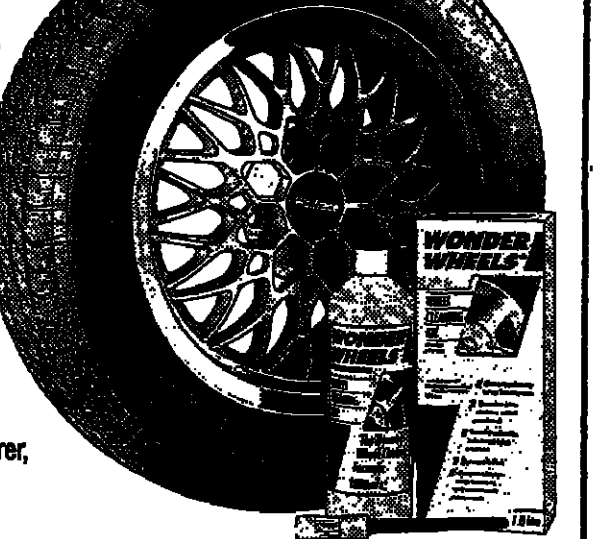
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## Only the toughest are still in the race for Mexico City

*In the third of his special reports on the 25th anniversary London-Mexico Rally, Roy Dixon, co-driving Tony Fall in a Volvo 142S, reports from Quito, Ecuador, on a week which saw several competitors fall by the wayside.*

**Closed  
borders no  
impediment  
for intrepid  
rallyists**

The teams have now left the deserts of Peru and arrived in the lush alpine countryside of Ecuador. After 19 days hard racing this toughest of rallies is beginning to take its toll and, sadly, friends are being left behind to find their own way home. So far 12 of the 59 starters have given up.

We heard of two retirements by fax. One was from Bill and Eileen Ainscough from Wigan who were forced to call it a day in their 1929 Chrysler 77, the oldest car in the race, after a superhuman effort to cross the Andes. The problem was oil seeping into the clutch.

The other was from George Hampson and Freddie Preston in their Rover 2000 which, apart from attempting to complete the race, was taking Paddington Bear to Lima to raise money for the Cancer Research Campaign. Freddie, reporting a blown engine after leaving Lima on three cylinders, said Paddington had achieved his quest in finding Aunt Lucy but was returning to London without her.

The most miraculous survivors are Major Nick Sharnley and

Corporal Mick Isted of the Princess of Wales Regiment in their Mark I Escort, who are raising money for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. They shared a difference on Sunday but could not get mechanics to start work until Monday. Once repaired they rushed to the start in Piura, northern Peru, and made it with just one minute to spare. They then took to their beds to rest and follow the others later, only to find the border into Ecuador shut. It turned out that the competitors who had crossed earlier in the day had been the first car to enter the country. After three months and the guards were not letting anyone else follow them. However, Major Sharples has arrived with the rest of us, albeit without the necessary stamps in his passport.

Tony and I continue in fifth place

overall, without major dramas other than Tony badly spraining his ankle. But all is well and last week we put in our best performance so far by coming third on one stage.

It has been a very tiring race. Most mornings we are up at 4.30am. Tony usually works on the car at a local Volvo dealership until 10.00am. Without his efforts and their assistance, we would have been out of the rally by now.

One of the most impressive drives was Stage 23, a 55km all-tarmac section near Cuenca in southern Ecuador. It favoured the most powerful cars in the rally and was won in 26 minutes 22 seconds by the Ford Mustang of Australian Terry Daly and his New Zealand co-driver Bob Prill.

Stage 23 was not so kind to Stanley Illman from South Africa and his Austrian co-driver Franz Stangl. After being given a clutch by the owner of one of only three Porsches in Lima, the petrol pump on their 911 broke, costing them another 20 minutes.

Hannu Mikkola from Finland and his co-driver Gunnar Palm from Sweden, winners of 1970 event, continue to lead in their Ford Escort. Their professionalism, speed and general workmanlike approach is admired by all.

## Scottish rival to the Mille Miglia



A 1957 Mercedes 300SL heads a row of rare cars being carefully watched over in the eighth year of the Ecurie Ecosse in Tayside

## **Kevin Eason on the exclusive club of the Talacrest Ecurie Ecosse Rally**

**T**he watchful eyes under the peaked cap were guarding some of the most valuable metal in the country.

Lined up behind the security man on the gravelled forecourt of a hotel in the north of Scotland were cars to take the breath away. Unfortunately, there was always the prospect that the light-fingered might decide to take a piece of car away given half a chance during this week's Talacrest Ecurie Ecosse Rally.

In its eighth year, the Ecurie Ecosse has become less of a rally and more of an exclusive club with 36 exotic models, from Ferraris to Bentleys, haring around more than 700 miles around Tayside.

The rally is a reminder of the fun of motor sport with the cars and owners there to show off and to be shown off. Frank Sytner, the former British Touring Cars Champion, was with his 1964 AC Cobra, and Viscount Cowdroy with a Ferrari 365 GTB Competition Daytona from 1970. But there was also a Ferrari 250GT Berlinetta, once driven by Stirling Moss, an Aston Martin LM23, which ran four times at Le Mans, and the

Jaguar C-type Lightweight which was first to average 100mph over 24 hours at Le Mans.

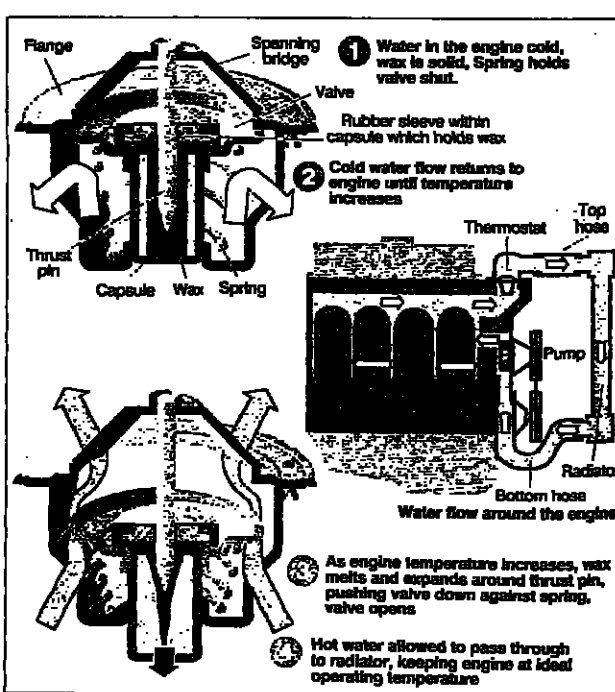
Such rare cars would inevitably attract the attention of thieves but John Foster, the organiser, yesterday reported no problems. Mr Foster, who dreamt up the Ecurie Ecosse as a British rival to Italy's famous Mille Miglia, said: "Parts are very expensive and rare and light-fingered people taking them would cause problems."

With winding roads to negotiate, difficult thoroughfares such as these might have been expected to spend time with burners up and owners in despair. But Foster was having difficulty finding a recipient for the most sought-after award of the week: the silver spanner for the car suffering the most breakdowns.

"We had one flat battery and needed some Araldite, but apart from that everything went smoothly," he said. Owners paid £1,200 to enter and all proceeds — about £10,000 — funded by the sponsors, Talacrest of Egham, Surrey — go to charity. But a new sponsor is needed for the 1996 rally.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

## Thermostats keep things cool



**A CAR ENGINE** started from cold takes time to warm up and to reach its correct operating temperature. The quicker it reaches that temperature the sooner it begins operating at its most efficient (Vaughan Freeman writes)

though the water pump is working, it cannot pump water through the closed thermostat, and instead travels through a bypass.

As the engine warms up so does the thermostat, and the wax inside the capsule begins to melt and expand. This expansion drives out the thrust pin, which opens the valve, allowing the hot water to pass through and back to the radiator.

When the engine is turned off the wax begins to cool and contract. As it does, the spring pushes the valve closed. The wax then solidifies with the thermostat in its closed position, ready for the engine to be turned on.

A faulty thermostat — for instance one in which the wax has leaked out causing the thermostat to jam closed — can cause the engine to overheat because water will not circulate back to the radiator. In this case the thermostat must be replaced or, in an emergency, simply removed until a new one can be fitted.



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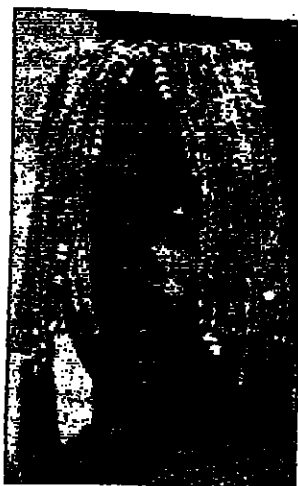
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TRAVEL



Namibia:  
exploring  
the world's  
oldest  
desert

Page 19

PLUS: Where to enjoy  
long weekends, page 23

GARDENING



The floral  
pleasures  
of country  
house  
operas

Page 8

PLUS: Answers to your  
plant problems, page 8

SHOPPING



New light  
on this  
summer's  
fashion in  
sunglasses

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PLUS: The stars and  
stripes store, page 11

BOOKS



First steps  
to a  
child's  
very own  
bookshelf

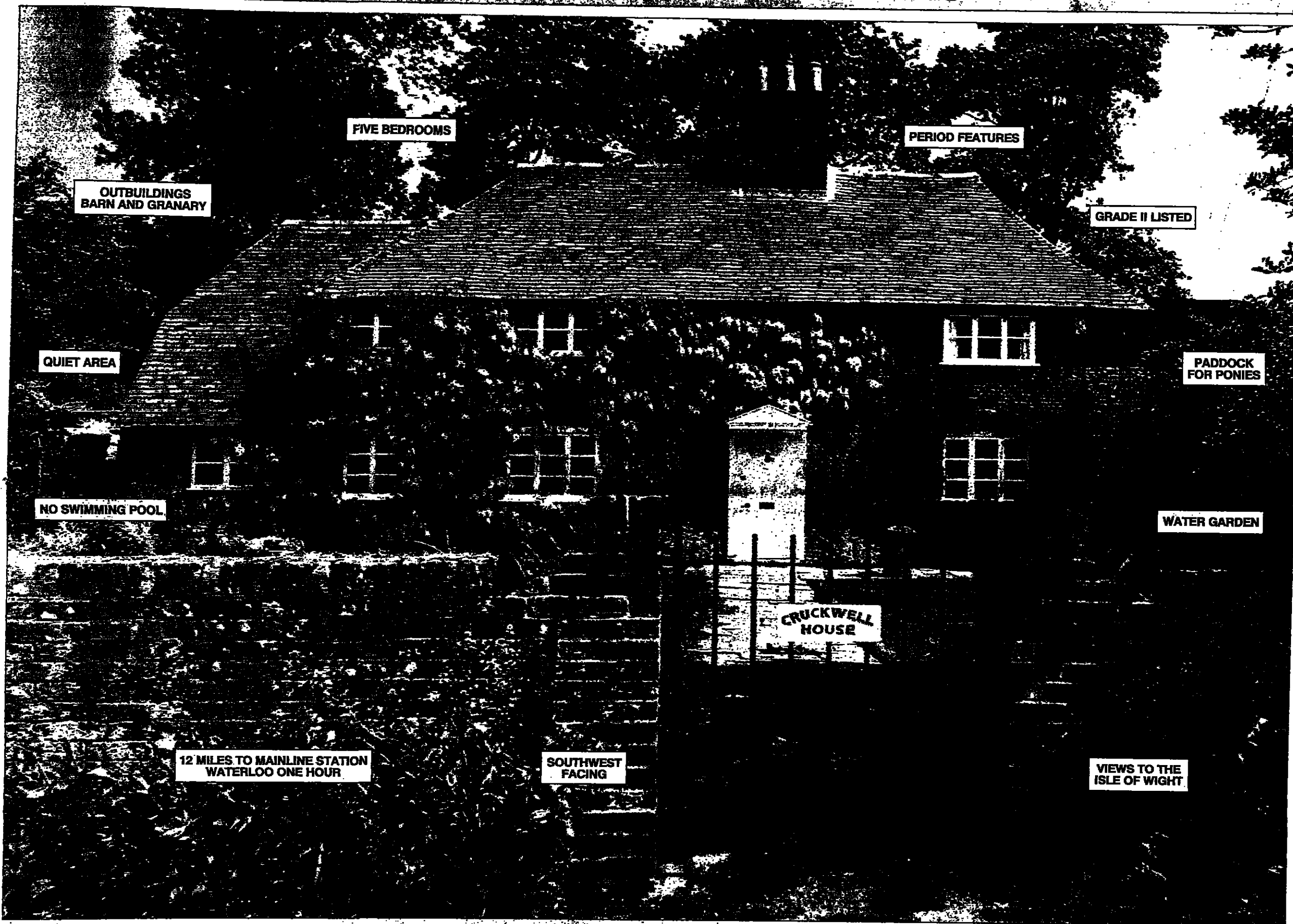
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PLUS: Daniel Johnson  
on biography, page 14

# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 13 1995

## THE HOUSE THAT ALWAYS SELLS



FIVE BEDROOMS

PERIOD FEATURES

OUTBUILDINGS  
BARN AND GRANARY

GRADE II LISTED

QUIET AREA

PADDOCK  
FOR PONIES

NO SWIMMING POOL

WATER GARDEN

12 MILES TO MAINLINE STATION  
WATERLOO ONE HOUR

SOUTHWEST FACING

VIEWS TO THE  
ISLE OF WIGHT

**T**he housing market is a very strange animal. In every estate agent's window there are examples of hope triumphing over experience to an extent that would be unthinkable if the window were full of groceries or washing machines.

Only in the housing market are there still some sellers, impervious to the recent outbreak of realism, who have a determinist view of their property's value. The reason is that housing is not just about macro-economics or microeconomics: it is also about

macho economics. To assault the seller's idea of his home's worth is to assault his libido. Smaller? Less? These are not words the seller wishes to hear.

Above all, the housing market is about the psychology of inflation. Years of zero price growth (and worse) have left us with the feeling that our homes have somehow let us down. Somewhere beneath the Weather-shield, somewhere in the bricks, mortar, granite, timber, thatch, an economic Frankenstein has stirred and, cackling hideously, has taunted us with the only words it knows:

**By Peter Barnard  
and Cheryl Taylor**

negative equity. We understand it, yet we scarce believe it. We were brought up to think that whereas other goods become more expensive, houses become more valuable. A dearer house has a desirability that would never be applied to a dearer sausage. Negative equity? Bah, humbug. We seek a scapegoat, usually "the Government".

Thus does the housing market point us to

the real and simple reason for the absence of a "feel-good" factor: our homes always used to be worth more than we paid for them. Now, in too many cases, they are not. Consequently, we do not feel good. One of our cherished clichés has been made redundant: as safe as houses were, they are no longer.

But universal truths can mislead. As the analysis on page three shows, there are houses and locations where prices are rising, where the agent's board is hardly erected before strangers are in our living room, whispering aghast at our taste.

There are, too, individual homes which hit every button on the keyboard of desirability, whose descriptions contain words which, in Tom Wolfe's phrase from another context, "identify the correct emotion": exceptional example, Grade II listed, country lane, country cottage garden, long westerly views and — the *coup de grâce* — convenient for mainline railway station.

They are all to be found in the brochure for the home on this page, Cruckwell House at

Continued on page 3, col 1

GROWING TIP N° 2

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**Levington**

**MOSSKILL EXTRA**

HERE'S A LEGACY OF A WARM HUMID AUTUMN

BEST TACKLE IT NOW - OTHERWISE YOU'LL HAVE POOR COLOUR ALL SUMMER

I USE MOSSKILL EXTRA BECAUSE IT FEEDS THE GRASS AS IT KILLS THE MOSS.

IT'S EASY WITH A MAXI SPREADER

RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RAKE UNTIL THE MOSS IS BLACK, ABOUT A WEEK LATER

AND THIS SUMMER MY GRASS WILL BE BEAUTIFULLY GREEN AND MOSS FREE



# CHOICE

Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

## ROCK

David Sinclair

**CELINE DION:** This is Celine Dion's first tour of Britain since the staggering success of *Think Twice* (the biggest-selling single of the year) and its host album, *The Colour Of My Love* (number one for five weeks). It certainly will not be her last. Indeed, the Canadian singer's new single, *Only One*, released this week and further dates are already scheduled for October and November. A ballad singer with a fervent touch, the 26-year-old former Eurovision Song Contest winner (for Switzerland) has drawn on considerable reserves of talent and ambition to carve a niche for herself in the international superleague inhabited by Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey.

**LITTLE RICHARD/CHUCK BERRY/FATS DOMINO:** Whoever persuaded three egos of this magnitude to share a stage deserves a medal and, as antique package tours go, it is a line-up which takes some beating. While Chuck Berry, 68, remains a regular visitor to these shores, along with his scandalously unrehearsed pick-up bands, the piano-bashing antics of Little Richard, 59, and Fats Domino, 67, have been less frequently exposed in recent times. Nostalgia fans may confidently expect to hear a ton of his revived from the archives as each artist performs his own set and the three of them join together for "a massive rock 'n' roll finale".

## OPERA

Rodney Milnes

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM:** Robert Carsen's production of Britten's Shakespearean opera arrives at the Coliseum trailing clouds of glory earned since it was first seen at the 1991 Aix Festival: beds, big and small, play a large part, as indeed they do in the opera. English National Opera has assembled an inviting cast - Lillian Watson, Christopher Robinson, Susan Chilcott, Peter Rose, the immortal Donald Adams as Quince and Jean Rigby in the spit-and-cough role of Hippolyta. Stuart Bedford, one of Britten's last collaborators, is the conductor. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 17, 7.30pm. ☞

**PELLEAS AND MELISANDE:** Like all good symbolist artefacts, Debussy's opera can mean more or less anything you want it to mean, from the Decline of Civilisation As We Know It to a nasty case of sibling rivalry: the field is wide open for director Richard Jones's imagination to run riot in Leeds, as it is doing to such memorable effect in the Covent Garden *Ring*. The fact that the opera is, for once, sung in English may (or may not) help. Joan Rodgers, William Dazeley and Robert Hayward are the protagonists, and the conductor is Opera North's Paul Daniel.

**Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113-244 0971/245 9351), Mon 15, Wed 17, Fri 19, 7.15pm. ☞**

**Tytania and Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream**

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

**TEODROSS AVERY/VALERY PONOMAREV:** Still a couple of months short of his 22nd birthday, Teodross Avery is picking up the kind of rave reviews that greeted the debut of another brash tenor prodigy from the West Coast of America, Joshua Redman. Initially influenced by both John Coltrane and Dexter Gordon, Avery studied with Joe Henderson and went through the Berklee mill before making his recording debut as a leader with *In Other Words*, a muscular session released earlier this year on the GRP label. The Moscow-born trumpeter Valery Ponomarev also belongs to the hard bop school. The Soviet Union not being the most nurturing



After her success in both the British singles and album charts, the Canadian balladeer Celine Dion begins a concert tour on May 19

environment for a jazz musician, he defected to the West 20 years ago and ended up in the most celebrated of bop academies of them all, Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. His quartet appears on the same bill as Irene Reid, the feisty blues and pop singer from Savannah, Georgia.

**Avery: Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-916 6000), Thur 18, first set 9.30pm. ☞**  
**Ponomarev: Ronnie Scott's, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 15 to Sat 20, support set from 9.30pm.**

## CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

**BERLIN NIGHTS:** Claudio Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra offered blazing proof at the Proms last year that they had forged a partnership every bit as powerful - and rather more evenly balanced - than that between Karajan and the Berliners. Now the orchestra and its chief

conductor return to London with two all-Mahler programmes that raise the highest hopes. Tomorrow they perform songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* with Anne Sophie von Otter, then Mahler Five. On Monday they move on to Mahler Nine.

**Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), tomorrow, Mon 15, 7.30pm. ☞**

**Claudio Abbado: high hopes**

**CONSORTS PURCELL:** Anthony Rooley's Consort of Musick was one of the pioneering chamber groups in the early-music field, and can still be trusted to find the unusual way into a familiar subject. In this case the familiar subject is Purcell, much played of late. The unfamiliar approach is to put his last works in the context of his colleagues' music in a programme poignantly titled *The Mantle of Orpheus*. As we now know, the mantle fell very heavily on Purcell's British successors: nobody measured up to him for 200 years.

**Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Thur 18, 7.30pm. ☞**

## MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

**EIGHTY YEARS OF JEWISH ART:** For a long time, the Ben Uri Arts Society, with its gallery above the Dean Street synagogue, has been a museum in all but name. Now, in its 80th year, it has been officially registered as a museum, and to celebrate has put on a show of Anglo-Jewish art drawn from its own collection. Included are some of the earliest works bought by the Society, two drawings by the pre-Raphaelite Simon Solomon and a large oil, *The Sabbath Rest* (1894), by Samuel Hirszenberg. Other artists include Lucien Pissarro (Camille's Anglicised son), Bomberg, Gerler, and the German émigré Ludwig Meidner. More recent artists are Leon Kossoff, Sandra Fisher, and Sandra Blow.

**Ben Uri Gallery, 21 Dean Street, London W1 (0171-437 2823), Mon-Thur, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until July 2.**

**EDWIN LUTYENS:** The majority of architectural drawings, pictorial presentations of projects and such are drawn by specialists rather than by architects. Lutyens used professional draughtsmen in his office, but he was himself compulsive with a pen or pencil, and an expert watercolourist. This show, drawn from the Royal Institute of British Architects' own collection, ranges from informal scribbles of first notions to elaborate presentation drawings, and covers Lutyens's career from student work and collaborations with the gardener Gertrude Jekyll to the Cenotaph and the unbuilt Liverpool Roman Catholic cathedral.

**RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1 (0171-580 5533), Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm; Sat, 10am-1pm, until July 1. ☞**

## GALLERIES

Richard Cork

**MATTHEW BARNEY:** The Tate Gallery's welcome new space devoted to Art Now kicks off with a perplexing, yet oddly compulsive installation by the young American, Matthew Barney. Containers and uniforms are scattered across the floor, as if discarded after some strange ritual. And the three video monitors suspended above take us into a bizarre world. Barney himself appears, naked apart from a swimmer's cap and harness, moving up and down a lift shaft. He symbolises one aspect of a celebrated American football star, Jim Otto, whose physical dedication and zeal inspired the work. But this is no documentary. Inexplicably, three killed members of the Black Watch erupt on another screen, chasing and playing games. The overall effect is just as eccentric and original as Barney's powerful new film, *Cremaster 4*, where a TT bike race around the Isle of Man is intercut with the supernatural antics of a tap dancing satire.

**Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000), until June 18.**

**CREMASTER 4: The Metro, Rupert Street, London W1 (0171-734 1506), today and tomorrow, 3pm, 11pm.**

**VICTOR GRIPPO:** First European retrospective for a veteran Argentinian artist at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham. Grippo, who trained as a chemist, first made his installations during the era of repressive dictatorships. He has reconstructed some of them for this show, and they reveal his long-term commitment to the moral problems of everyday life. Grippo's most celebrated works centre on the potato, heaped on narrow, refectory light tables or attached to

electrodes. A volt metre measures the energy released by the potatoes, which, in Grippo's art, symbolises mental energy. They also stand for the unrealised potential of Latin American people. Underlying the variety in Grippo's work is a constant attempt to raise questions about society and the value of human life.

**Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham (0121-643 0708), until May 20.**

**THEATRE**  
Benedict Nightingale

## THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

**SKYLIGHT:** Michael Gambon's chunky aggressive entrepreneur makes contact with his former mistress, an East End schoolmarm played by Lia Williams, for what is partly a debate about their respective careers, values and aspirations. But David Hare's play is one of his warmest and least didactic, and Richard Eyre's production is packed with strong, subtle emotion and fine, sensitive acting.

**Cottesloe, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 2252), Evenings, Mon 15 to Sat 20, 7.30pm; matinee: Sat 20, 2.30pm. Continues in repertoire. ☞**

**THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS:** Is there a more emotionally magnificent work in the 20th-century canon than O'Casey's slum-eye-view of Easter 1916? Joe Dowling's production, itself fresh from Ireland, does full justice to the folly, the pain, the warmth, the fecklessness and all the rest of the tragicomic mess and muddle.

**Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5510), Evenings, 7.30pm; matinee: Thur and Sat, 2.30pm.**

• More theatre, page 6.

## DANCE

John Percival

**BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET:** Two weeks at Covent Garden for this popular company. Peter Wright's happy new production of *Coppélia* has a surprise ending and comes with splendid designs by Peter Farmer (May 16, 17, and May 22, 23, 26, 27). Incredibly, although this is one of the best ballets for children, and not seen at the Royal Opera House for 20 years, no matinees are scheduled (blame the Royal Opera's rehearsal schedules). The other programme includes two historic master works, both newly mounted: Antony Tudor's psychological drama, *Pillar of Fire*, and The Three-Cornered Hat by Da Falla. Massine and Picasso; also Balanchine's classic Tchaikovsky showpiece, *Theme and Variations* (May 18 to May 20, and May 25). Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), 7.30pm. ☞

**WILD TRANSLATIONS:** Siobhan Davies's latest work for her dance company is made with three of her regular collaborators: a score by Kevin Volans, designs by David Buckland and lighting by Peter Mumford. This team should ensure Davies's usual high quality, and the new piece is given on a double bill with last year's success, *The Glass Blew In*.

**Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (0114-276 9922), May 15, 16, 7.30pm; Edinburgh Festival Theatre (0131-529 6000), May 19, 7.30pm; Mercury Theatre, Colchester (01206 573948), May 22 and 23, 8pm; Gardner Arts Centre, Brighton (01273 685861), May 25-27, 7.45pm.**

## FILMS

Geoff Brown

**BULLETS OVER BROADWAY** (15): Woody Allen's most relaxed film for years: a buoyant and opulent period comedy set in New York's theatre world during the 1920s. Allen stays behind the camera, though his mouthpiece is clearly John Cusack's character: a playwright with more aspirations than talent. Allen surrounds his tortured hero with a droll collection of period types: menacing thugs, empty-headed molls, flowery actors, bohemian ravers. Excellent support by Chazz Palminteri, Dianne Wiest and Jim Broadbent.

**Barbican (0171-638 8891); Chelsea (0171-351 3742); Gate (0171-727 4043); MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148); Odeons: Haymarket (01426 915353), Kensington (01426 914666); Screen/ Green (0171-226 3520); Screen/Hill (0171-435 3366).**

**EXOTICA** (18): Atom Egoyan, Canada's answer to David Lynch, makes his best bid yet for wider acceptance with an inventive set of variations on his pet theme: voyeurism. In a nightclub plastered with jungle foliage, gentlemen sit lost in fantasy while scantily clad women dance on tables. All characters are fuelled by desires, crippled by loss, though the plot that envelops them matters less than the overall mood. Funny, audacious, often beautiful. With Bruce Greenwood, Milla Kirshner and Elias Koteas.

**Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); Lumiere (0171-836 0691); Renoir (0171-837 8402).**

• More films, page 6.

## CHILDREN

### CUMBRIA

**Model Boat Rally:** Models of all shapes and sizes, from submarines to motorboats, and radio-controlled ducks, kettles and frying pans, too. **Windermere Steamboat Museum, Rayrigg Road, Windermere (015394 45565), Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adults £2.80, child £1.40. ☞**

### DERBYSHIRE

**Chatsworth Angling Fair:** International fair for all fishermen and their families. **Chatsworth House and Garden, Bakewell (0831 395101), Today, tomorrow, 8.30am-4.30pm. Adults £6, under 14s free. ☞**



Gone fishing at Chatsworth

### DEVON

**Oxfam It's a Knockout:** Watch the local teams taking part and enjoy a family fun day out with face painting, music and a fair. **Plymouth Hoe, Plymouth (01822 616967), Tomorrow, 11am-4pm. Admission free.**

### EAST SUSSEX

**The Santa Maria:** See a replica of Columbus's flagship. **Brighton Marina Village, Brighton (01273 693636), Today, 10am-5pm, until May 31. Admission: adults £2, child £1.**

### HERTFORDSHIRE

**Living Crafts at Hatfield House:** See artists and craftsmen at work in the grounds. **Hatfield House, Hatfield (01707 262823), Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. Admission: adults £5.50, child £2.50. ☞**

### LONDON

**Richmond May Fair:** Victorian carousel, fancy dress and performances by the Royal Ballet School. **Richmond Green and Parish Church, Richmond (0181-948 4464), Today, 10am-5pm. Admission free. ☞**

**Annual May Fayre and Puppet Festival:** Punch and Judy professors and puppeteers celebrate Mr Punch's birthday. **Covent Garden Piazza, WC2 (0171-375 0441), Tomorrow, 10.30am-5.30pm. Admission free.**

### NATIONWIDE

**Library Power Week:** Special events are being staged at libraries around the country to promote their use by children of all ages. Telephone your local library for details.

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**Countryside Day:** Guided walks, sheep dog displays and rare breeds. **Daventry Country Park, Welton Road, Daventry (01327 302417), Tomorrow, 1pm-5pm. Admission free.**

### SCOTLAND

**Mardi Gras:** Local primary schools have constructed Mardi Gras monsters. Also musical and puppet performances. **Tollcross Park, Glasgow (0141-554 6642), Today, 1pm. Admission free. ☞**

**Nairn Harbourfest:** Live music, jugglers, clowns, and magicians. Also game shows, fun fair, air and sea rescue demonstration, raft race and model boat regatta. **Nairn Harbour, Nairn (01667 456 144), Today, 10am-11.30pm; tomorrow, 10am-9.30pm. Admission free. ☞**

### SOMERSET

**Badger Weekend:** Learn about badger family life. **Secret World, New Road Farm, East Huntspill, Highbridge (01278 782520), Open daily, 10am-6pm. Badger weekend: today, tomorrow. Adults £3.95, child £2.75. ☞**

### YORKSHIRE

**Dragon Boat Racing:** Crews from around the country race in the traditional 40-foot Chinese boats trying to keep time with the drum. **Roundhay Park, Princes Avenue, Leeds (011-930 2296), Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Admission free. ☞**

HEATHER ALSTON

## Ruth Gledhill commemorated VE-Day at a synagogue in the City of London

### AT YOUR SERVICE

THE scent of ancient, dark oak wood combined with the bright warmth of candles and sunlight at the Bevis Marks synagogue in the City of

London gave a faint sense of medieval Spain. The other women and I squeezed behind a wooden trellis in the balcony had a partial view of the Spanish and Portuguese, or Sephardi Jews, synagogue, where we were commemorating VE-Day. Guests included Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, Tony Blair and Michael Howard. Our preacher was Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, who heads the Ashkenazi United Synagogue. The Ashkenazim, originally from northern Europe, and the Sephardim, the Jews of Spain, Portugal and the Mediterranean, represent the two main divisions of Jewry in the diaspora and differ slightly in their liturgy and pronunciation of Hebrew.

Dress was traditional, with synagogue elders in top hats, other men in bowler hats or kippot, small caps. Married women also covered their heads. The synagogue is used by City workers who attend morning services, a weekly lunchtime teach-in and afternoon services.

Our service was in line with a more ancient tradition, following celebrations held there to mark victories at Trafalgar and Waterloo. But this was thought to be the first time a British Archbishop, Cardinal and Chief Rabbi had attended a synagogue service together. "There is a clear mess-



Cardinal Basil Hume and the Archbishop of Canterbury, left

age of hope," Dr Sacks said in his sermon. "The past 50 years have proved that if we remember, we can change. And nowhere is this clearer than in the transformed relationship between Christianity and Judaism." He said he cherished his friendship with the two Anglican and Roman Catholic church leaders present. "The tribute they pay to Jews and Judaism by being here today is a measure of how far we have travelled through the long, patient, demanding process of coming to understand and respect those of another faith."

Behind the Archbishop of Canterbury sat Sir Sigmund Sternberg, wearing the cocked hat and green uniform of the Papal Order of St Gregory the Great. Sir Sigmund, chairman of the International Council of Christians and Jews, sporting the numerous medals he has been awarded for his inter-faith achievements, is the only Jewish Knight Commander in Britain.

Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy began by giving thanks to God "who

answered our prayers and liberated us from tyranny and aggression". He wished shalom, peace, to all attending and watching on television "this service of commemoration and thanksgiving to God for his deliverance from Nazi oppression".

When the standards were in place the young boys in the choir led the congregation into the *Song of Degrees*. "The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand," we sang. "The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night." For the *Amidah*, the prayer of 18 benedictions, we turned towards the Ark, the cabinet containing the scrolls of the Torah, the five biblical books of the Law. "O Lord: open thou my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise," we sang, before the Ark was opened and the Rabbi led us in the *kaddish*, prayers for the dead, in this case specifically for victims of war and massacre.

"May he who maketh peace in his high heavens through his infinite mercy grant peace unto us

and unto all Israel, and say ye Amen," he said.

The Last Post was sounded, before prayers for the Queen and Royal family and the blowing of the shofar, or ram's horn. This is normally reserved for the New Year and the Day of Atonement, but was used here to mark the momentous nature of the event.

**Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation, Bevis Marks Synagogue, Bevis Marks, City of London EC1. Tel: 0171-626 1274.**

**RABBI: Dr Abraham Levy.**

**ARCHITECTURE:** Opened in 1701 and almost unaltered since, this is the oldest and possibly most beautiful synagogue in use in Britain. The builder, a Quaker, returned his profits to the congregation because he did not want to gain from building a house of God. ★★★★★

**SERMON:** On VE-Day, the Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks preached a powerful and passionate sermon on the need "to remember the past for the sake of the future". ★★★★★

**MUSIC:** Startling and evocative hymns and psalms from men and boys' choir conducted by Maurice Martin, including the National Anthem in Hebrew. ★★★★★

**LITURGY:** Largely sung *Minha*, or afternoon service, in Hebrew, followed by VE-Day commemoration and thanksgiving. ★★★★★

**AFTER-SERVICE CARE:** None provided because the congregation was in the process of counting the *Omer*, the mourning period between Pesah, Passover and Shavu'ot, Pentecost.

**SPIRITUAL HIGH:** Both mournful and hopeful. ★★★★★

★ stars are awarded to a maximum of five.



# COVER STORY

3

Continued from page 1  
Upper Swinmore in Hampshire. "Offers in excess of £465,000," the John D. Wood brochure says. And means: please, no property tourists. Cruckwell House is serious business and, at the same time, a dream. But so is a bedsit to a homeless person, a one-bedroom flat to a bedsit dweller, and so on up the ladder. And we shall stay on the ladder, be it ever so wobbly, because, even now, an Englishman's home is his castle. Whoever heard of renting one of those?

## WHAT'S HOT IN THE PROPERTY MARKET

IN GENERAL, houses built pre-1940 with lots of original features, away from main roads, railways and flight paths, preferably with a large southwest-facing garden. Plus:

- Period homes — thatched cottages, old rectories, castles and manor houses.
- Houses with additional space for an office or granny flat, preferably an annexe.
- Smallholdings, particularly with equestrian facilities.
- Waterfront homes, especially those with a private deep-water mooring at the end of the garden.
- Older character houses in need of renovation.
- Large country houses, suitable for bed and breakfast or self-catering accommodation.

## LONDON

**Wandsworth:** Large Victorian/Edwardian family houses with good-sized gardens in leafy surroundings, combined with low council tax and a plethora of good private schools, make Wandsworth a hot property choice.

**Five-bedroom houses,** "between the Commons" (Wandsworth and Clapham), fetching £400,000 in 1993 have been selling at around £600,000 or more in 1995.

**Shad Thames:** Unlike the rest of London's Docklands, the Shad Thames area of Bermondsey, between Tower Bridge and St Savour's Dock, is red hot. Trendy riverside restaurants, shops and apartments, within sight of Tower Bridge, make the area popular with young City workers who want to walk to work.

**Demand outstrips supply** for warehouse conversions with original features and river views. The agents Chestertons Residential, say that, such properties sell fast. A two-bedroom apartment in

## HOT PROPERTIES

New Concordia Wharf sold this year for £169,000. Four months earlier it had been bought for £133,000.

**Islington:** Labour leader Tony Blair's borough is experiencing a resurgence of interest from well-off young professionals, mainly media people and barristers, who want to be within walking distance of the City and Law Courts. Georgian houses costing £200,000 to £500,000 are the most sought-after, the agents Hamptons say. Demand for flats and houses exceeds supply in places such as Cannonbury, Barnesbury and the Angel. Also Pinsbury, Highbury Fields and areas such as Tufnell Park, where there is a waiting list of buyers for some roads. Family houses in good condition with gardens sell within hours of coming on to the market.

**Richmond and Putney:** A combination of Georgian houses, green space and a number of riverside developments, with good communications (at the end of the District Line), make Richmond a popular choice. The main market activity is in the upper price bracket: £500,000 upwards.

**Riverside developments** here are particularly hot, Hamptons say. Five-bedroom houses, with moorings, are selling off-plan at one development for between £650,000 and £750,000.

**Mayfair:** The return of some of the top names in fashion — Caroline Charles, Calvin Klein, Gianni Versace and Armani — to Bond Street heralds a resurgence in popularity for property in Mayfair. The area is liked by foreign buyers who want a London base close to Oxford Street, says the agent Beane Pearce. Flats in 1930s or 1950s blocks overlooking Berkeley Square or Grosvenor Square are the most sought after, with prices up to £750,000 for a two-bedroom flat in good condition.

**Knightsbridge:** Most estate agents agree that people wanting a smart address or  *pied-à-terre*  aim for Knightsbridge — preferably "just around the corner from Harrods". The agents Chestertons say there is a waiting list of potential buyers for homes in prime streets, such as Egerton Terrace, where a family house would set you back £1.3 to £3 million. Also popular: Brompton Square, Montpelier Square and Pelham Crescent.

**Holland Park:** Some people love this area and will pay exorbitant amounts to own a house there. Creamy double-fronted houses on Holland Park Road are highly coveted. These fetch upwards of £3 million for five or six bedrooms and large gardens. The agents Foxtons recently sold a two-bedroom basement flat in the area in less than a week for £285,000; a two-bedroom maisonette went to sealed bids (with four bidders) achieving £351,000.

**Wimbledon village:** Semi-detached Victorian and Edwardian houses here cost about £400,000 for four bedrooms. Prices of good quality properties in the area went up by 15 per cent last year, according to the agents Savills.

**Hampstead and Highgate:** Well-located family houses costing anything from £700,000 to more than £2 million will sell within a matter of days, such is the demand for homes here. Potential purchasers spend more than a year on waiting lists and will often pay over the odds for the right property.

**Battersea, Lavender Hill and Clapham Junction:** Popular with young, single, professionals and first-time buyers. The area offers convenient travel into the City and West End and some of the trendiest shops, wine bars and bistros in south London. Foxtons say a one-bedroom garden flat can be yours for £85,000; two bedrooms from £120,000. Victorian houses, with up to four bedrooms and good-sized gardens, fetch from £175,000 to £200,000.

**Fulham:** Prices for large flats in Fulham are on the way up. The agent John D. Wood says that three and four-bedroom flats in 1930s blocks, with river views, sell for up to £415,000. The main reason given is the dearth of property in the Chelsea area. Several of the Victorian houses on the Peterborough Estate have recently sold at around £600,000.

**South Kensington:** Car parking in the capital is becoming an increasingly important factor with home buyers. As a result, people are choosing areas with good public transport. One area that has benefited is South Kensington. In demand are the garden squares, such as Onslow Square and Onslow Gardens, Queens Gate Gardens and Cornwall Gardens. A two-

bedroom flat in the Onslows will set you back about £300,000 — if you're lucky enough to find one for sale.

## BANBURY

The M40 extension has given a flip to this area. Previously, London commuters or second home owners drew the line at Banbury or Oxford: now they are prepared to look further north, says Paul Greenwood of Stacks Relocation. The M40 also offers easy access to Birmingham. The countryside is scenic and there are a number of good schools. Prices began to rise even before the M40 extension had been completed. A house with five bedrooms, outbuildings and pony paddocks, could cost from £250,000 to £400,000, and between £500,000 and £750,000 for a larger house with up to 25 acres of land, says John D. Wood's Oxford office.

## BASINGSTOKE

The area between Basingstoke and Winchester is becoming a hot-spot with well-heeled City workers looking for a country retreat (close to the M3 and an hour from Winchester to Waterloo by fast train). Desirable villages include Upton Grey and Benworth. Most of the activity is at the top of the market, with stockbrokers and merchant bankers willing to pay £750,000 to £1 million for a country house with six or seven bedrooms and up to ten acres.

## CAMBRIDGE

Demand is high for houses in the centre of the town, where supply is limited. Six buyers were bidding recently for a period three-storey, seven-bedroom, end-of-terrace house: it sold for more than the guide price of £310,000, through the agents Bidwells.

## CHESHIRE

A four-bedroom house with stables and pony paddocks might fetch £220,000 to £300,000. Large country houses and small estates, within a 30-mile radius of Chester, fetch from £50,000 to more than £1 million.

## COTSWOLDS

Kingham, between Stow-on-the-Wold and Chipping Norton, is hot favourite with weekenders and those seeking retirement homes. The station is half a mile from the village and you can get into London in 85 minutes by train. Also popular are the classic Cotswolds areas of Coln valley, Windrush valley and Upper and Lower Slaughter. Old stone cottages, with four bedrooms and secluded gardens, fetch up to £250,000.

## DEVON

Waterside properties in Dartmouth, Salcombe and Kingsbridge are hotter than ever, particularly those with deep-water moorings. Such properties are highly prized by weekend sailors and retired executives and they are hard to find. The few that come on the market fetch a premium of up to 50 per cent. Expect to pay a premium of 25 per cent or more for those homes which have a view of the water. Such homes cost from £350,000, say the agents Marchand Petit. The agents Fulfords say there is a waiting list of cash buyers, some with up to £1 million to spend.

East Devon attracts a lot of attention because of the M5, the A303 and its good access into Exeter. The seaside town of Sidmouth is particularly hot. With a beautiful coastline, it is a popular spot for retirement homes. Three-bedroom bungalows with sea views cost from £200,000, Fulfords say.

## NEWBURY

The relocation of several large companies to this area has buoyed up property prices. John D. Wood's Newbury office reports a high demand for properties in the range £185,000 to £200,000, which buys a three-bedroom, detached thatched cottage. Four to five-bedroom period houses in good condition, with stables and up to five acres, cost from £250,000 to £400,000.

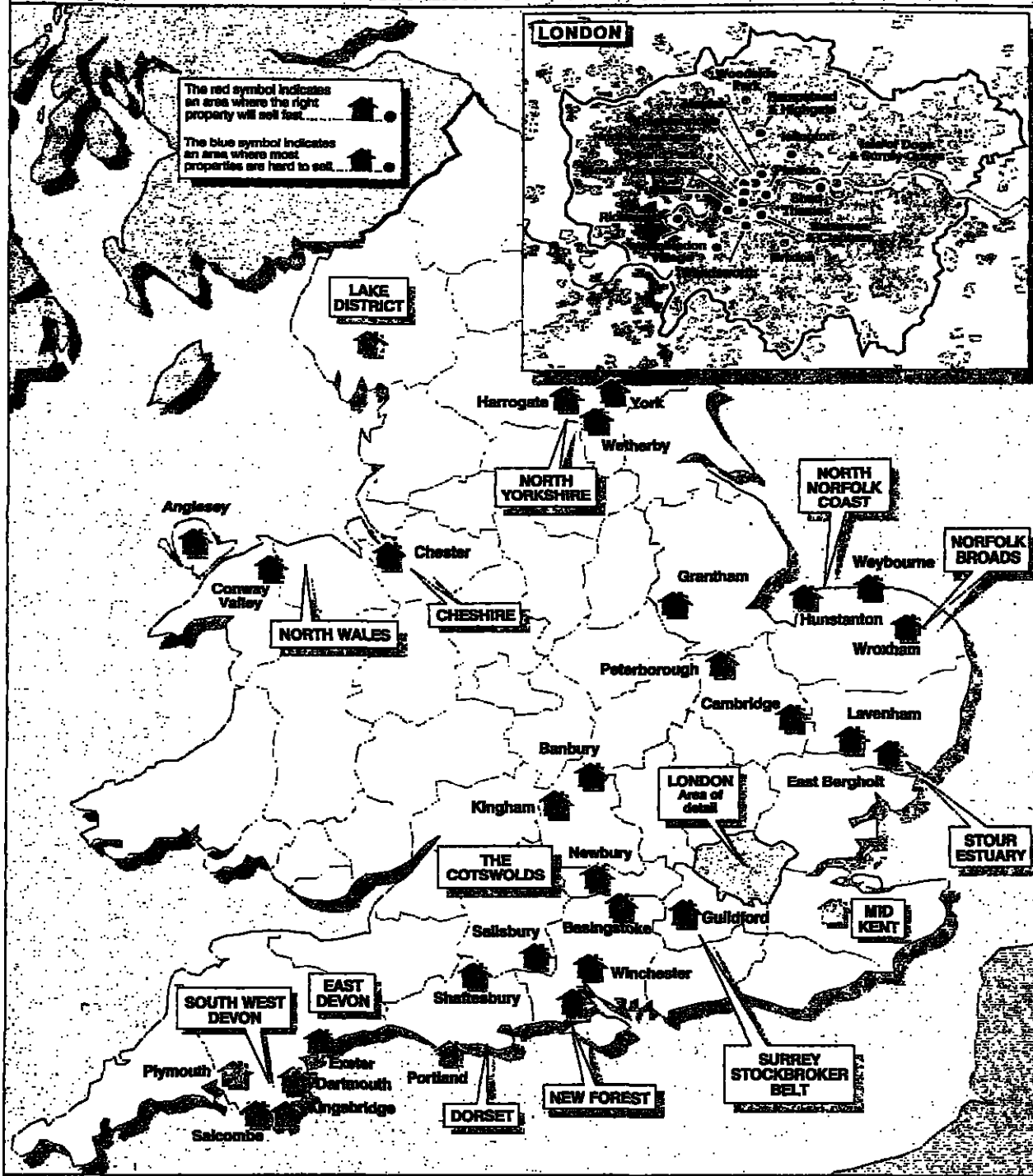
## NEW FOREST

There are few period properties in the New Forest, so prices stay high. GA Property Services say. The same applies to four-bedroom cottages with two to three acres of land, which fetch from £300,000. A six-bedroom property on the Solent shore can fetch upwards of £1 million.

## NORFOLK

The area around Wroxham, Acre and Horning is popular because of the Broads and its boating. Also, the unspoilt north Norfolk coast, within a ten-mile radius of the coastline from Weybourne to Holt, Cley, Blakeney, Suffey, Burnham Market, Brancaster, Thornham and Old Hunstanton. Detached period houses costing from £100,000 are sought after by second home and retirement buyers Bidwells say.

## WHERE PERFECT PROPERTIES SELL - AND WHERE THEY DON'T



## NORTH WALES

The agents Strutt & Parker's Chester office say that the new A55 has meant that parts of North Wales — the Conway Valley to Anglesey in particular — are more accessible to the new business areas of Chester, Liverpool and Manchester. Expect to pay £200,000 to £300,000 for a five-bedroom house with up to five acres.

## NORTH YORKSHIRE

Any good period house within commuting distance of Leeds, Harrogate and York sells quickly, say Savills and Strutt & Parker. A five-bedroom house in up to five acres will fetch about £300,000.

## PETERBOROUGH

There has been resurgence of interest in the area, mostly from people relocating from London. The electrification of the BR line makes Peterborough 55 minutes from Kings Cross. Well-located period houses can sell within days of coming on the market, says Saville Stamford office, which sold a five-bedroom Georgian house with a large garden for £250,000 in five weeks.

## SALISBURY

The area between Salisbury and Shaftesbury is in demand as improvements to the A303 make the area more accessible to London. The road is now nearly all dual carriageway up to where it joins the M3. Expect to pay at least £500,000 for a five-bedroom period farmhouse with good views and up to five acres.

## SUFFOLK

Hot spots here include the Lavenham area, where there are many fine medieval timber-framed houses in undulating countryside. These cost from £300,000 to £500,000 and are becoming harder to find, Bidwells say. The River Stour estuary and the valley leading to East Bergholt and Constable country is popular with sailors and commuters, who catch the InterCity train from Colchester or Ipswich (about an hour from London). Victorian five-bedroom houses with 20 or 30 acres overlooking water fetch £250,000 to £750,000.

## SURREY

The stockbroker belt around Guildford is hot for commuters who need to be within easy reach of central London (36 minutes by train to Waterloo), Gatwick and Heathrow. Good private schools in the area also attract buyers. Detached four-bedroom cottages in villages such as Dunsford, Hascombe, Lurgashall, Shere, Chiddingfold and Hambledon cost about £250,000. An 18th-century country house with six bedrooms in six acres costs about £600,000.

Cover photograph by DEREK CHAMBERLAIN  
Cartography by DUNCAN STEWART

More property, page 13



Noise from flight paths plus heavy traffic and air pollution hits property prices

## HARD TO SELL

IN GENERAL, modern houses (post 1960), particularly those on estates, have declined in popularity. The same applies to some barn conversions and properties perceived to be too avant garde or lacking in privacy. Also down are homes on busy roads, on flight-paths, bordering rail lines, and within earshot of motorways. With higher levels of traffic noise and air pollution, such houses are becoming increasingly difficult to sell.

## LONDON

Pimlico has been said to be up and coming for the past 15 years — but it never seems to get there, says Charles Ellingworth of the specialist buying agency Property Vision.

**Brixton:** The area off Landor Road was popular in the late 1980s and tipped as the next up-and-coming area. Not enough people moved in before the property market crashed, and now the area is out of fashion and prices are at rock bottom.

**Woodside Park, Chantonbury Way and Cissbury Ring (North and South)** was popular when the well-respected Japanese School was located in the area. When the school moved to Acton, many Japanese residents went with it, the estate agent Barnard Marcus says.

**Isle of Dogs and Surrey Quays:** The Docklands agents Carleton-Smith say properties under £150,000 are hard to shift in some parts. Newly built homes in Surrey Quays have fallen out of favour because of problems with public transport, particularly rail links. On the Isle of

Dogs, there has been an increase in the supply of new properties, ahead of demand. **North Kensington:** In the 1980s boom, a shortage of property forced people to buy on the fringes of the more established areas. Some paid over the odds to live in North Kensington. "This was not an established area and has not been strong enough to withstand the crash," says Simon English of agents Beane Pearce.

## LAKE DISTRICT

The second-home market in the area almost collapsed in the recession, particularly for anything that was not in the core areas. The market is taking a long time to recover, the agents Savills say.

## DORSET

The closure of the naval bases in Portland next year has caused property values to drop 25 per cent in the past four years. Prices here are thought to have hit rock bottom, say the agents Palmer Snell.

## PLYMOUTH

Massive defence cuts have hit the local economy and the housing market, say the agents Fulfords. High unemployment and rising crime are big problems.

## KENT

The relatively unspoilt area of mid-Kent has fallen out of favour because of the proposed rail link to Dover for the Channel Tunnel. Some houses along the route have plunged in value and selling is difficult, say the agents Strutt & Parker.



Sir Alfred Munnings P.R.A. R.W.S. (1878-1959) with the finished model of Brown Jack. One of the five casts made will be offered as Lot 128, estimate £40,000 - 50,000

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## WEST-END ENTERTAINMENT

## THEATRE GUIDE

**ABSOLUTE HELL.** Set in a drinking club in the summer of 1945 (excellent timing by the NT), Roddy Doyle's neglected, state-of-the-art comedy is played by top comedians headed by Aidan Dolan and Greg Kinnear. Anthony Page directs. National (Lyric), South Bank, SE1 (0171-429 2222). Preview tonight-May 22, 7.30pm, mat May 23, 2.15pm. Opens May 23 (2).

**AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'.** Exhilarating song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on stage. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-404 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

**DEALER'S CHOICE.** Patrick Marber's fascinating poker drama: funny one-act about the roots of gambling. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-404 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

**DESIGN FOR LIVING.** Rachel Weiss, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's mercurial 4-act comedy. Sean Mathias is award-winning, with every scene a tour de force. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-404 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

**THE DUCHESS OF MALFI.** Julia Stevenson and Simon Russell Beckett. Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the breakdown of the mind. Philip Frankel directs Greenwich Theatre's sell-out success. Wyndham, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1749). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed and Sat, 3pm.

**JEFFREY.** Christopher Wicking plays a New Yorker lured in to a fast-paced, satirical, Tim Lucan director's Paul Rudnick's Off-Broadway hit with a million camp cues. Greenwich, Crosses Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until June 10 (2).

**THE KILLING.** Michael Marmont plays the twenty-sixth episode in Frank Marlow's excellent comedy with a title. Serena Evans and Josephine Tutton play her treacherous companion and boss. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-438 6111). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mat Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

**LOVE IS A DRUG.** Oxford Stage Company's enjoyable and energetic comedy about the place of drugs in

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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**MORTA** (The women who appeared dead). Fast and furious farce created by Antonio Fene. BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight, 8pm; tomorrow, 6pm. Final week (2).

**THE MAIDEN STONE.** Peter Marber's murder mystery. 18th-century road-travelers and theatrical hopefulness meet with Old Nick. A good cast somewhat lost in the storm. Haymarket, Swiss Cottage, NW3 (0171-722 5901). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm (2).

**OUR BOYS.** Jonathan Lewis's searching and often funny drama set in a military hospital where the soldiers question the army's commitment. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1723). Today, 8pm and 8.15pm. Final performance (2).

**RETRAIT.** Tim Pigott-Smith plays a man related to his Welsh cottage and isolated new owner Victoria Hamilton in an unsettling play. Swan Theatre, Richmond (0181-940 2620). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat May 18, 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm (2).

**THE SILVER TASSIE.** Sean O'Casey's farce and haunting anti-war drama, not seen in London since 1952. What happens to a Dublin doctor here after his volunteers in 1914? Alameda, Alameda Street, N1 (0171-359 4034). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm (2).

**SIMPATICO.** Powerful acting from Sean Hinds, Sean McGinley, Janet McTeer and Tony Haygarth in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A shared secret from long ago connects two men now living very different lives. Not a vintage Shepard but insightful and gripping. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until May 27.

**TRUE LIES.** Devised play directed by John Crowley for Bickenstaff Theatre Co. Four women travel the Internet in a comedy that became a hit at last year's Dublin Festival.

Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3369). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until June 3.

**TWELFTH NIGHT.** Ian Judge's delightful production with Desmond Barst as Malvolio and Emma Fielding as Viola, both irresistible. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8881). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm (2).

**VICTOR AND THE LADIES.** Rudolph Walker plays a widower with 18 daughters in Jenny McLoud's searing, a cheerfully preposterous and gently reactionary comedy of the genre. Theatre, Tottenham High Road, NW9 (0171-222 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm (2).

**A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE.** David Thacker's acclaimed production, with Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman concerned by an unlovable wife for his job. Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-630 8800). Tue-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Thurs, 3pm. Sat and Sun, 3pm.

**YO YO YO.** Pioneering first play by Dina Mahoney, set in Cornwall where an impassioned teenage couple crossing the path of a schoolteacher down there on an advice visit to his son. Westhouse, Chiswell Road, East Croydon (0181-630 4000). Tue, 8.30pm; Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Until May 28.

**LONG RUNNERS**  
Arcadia: Haymarket (0171-630 8800). In Goodbye: Phoenix (0171-438 6111). In Goodbye: Phoenix (0171-438 6111). In Goodbye: Phoenix (0171-438 6111).

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Hands on: pupils at Tredworth Infants School get to grips with one of the surreal sculptures created by the children of St James Junior School.

## Sculpture as child's play

Hilary Finch on an imaginative community scheme in Gloucester to create the artists of tomorrow

A single child's handprint in plaster has turned out to be the beginnings of a sculpture exhibition, the design inspiration for a pedestrianisation project in a programme of inner-city renewal, and the official logo of a community arts partnership.

When the sculpture department of the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education joined forces with inner-city Gloucester schools, nobody knew what to expect. The second-year students had never worked with children before: Tredworth Infants and St James Junior School had never thought of sculpture as something you did in school.

It all started when an Enterprise in Higher Education project was set up to develop "enterprise" skills to complement the college students' academic work: learning to work as a team, to manage time, publicity and presentation. Gloucester City Council, meanwhile, wanted to develop a pool of young artists on which to draw for their public art programme, as part of the city's Inner Area Renewal work. The Tredworth children were the raw material.

Six students worked on three projects in the three schools. Chinese New Year was about to be celebrated at Tredworth Infants School. Art students Victoria Mace and Chris Dwyer worked with 30 six and seven-year-olds making a huge Chinese dragon

What artists actually do a lot of the time, of course, is simply to get discouraged. For Mace, the project gave her a more positive outlook on her own work. "It made us very successful. When it came to the exhibition, none of us had any idea how much work was involved. Now we'll know what to expect."

At Tredworth Junior, Rafael Sorribas and Tara Chittenden went into a school with an already lively art department, but one totally unused to three-dimensional work. The children initially made casts of their own hands with clay and plaster, purely to get used to the joy and the mess of such a tactile medium. Then Sorribas placed some groups of upright, inverted branches and twigs in the playground and, based on the children's reaction to these "human-looking figures", began to work on two-framed plaster-cast figures whose vigorous forms now stalk every corridor.

"The children weren't really into abstract work," says Sorribas, "so we tried to make

things they could relate to, but in a more abstract way. The pupils at St James Junior School created two surreal armchairs - covered with toys and junk (usually from junk heaps) sprayed and plastered over - which proved themselves remarkably play-proof and weatherproof installations.

Cheryl Keefe and James Smith shifted the children away from scissors and card to huge sheets of paper, which they could scratch, rip and knot, and wool and string rather than glue and Sellotape. Teddy bears and plastic sunglasses

perched on arm and wing; dangling earrings hung from rusty springs. Gloucester City Council's Inner Area Renewal team was keen to take ideas forward from the Tredworth project. The "hand" motif is to be incorporated into a design for a doorway and into flooring for a pedestrianisation scheme; the surreal chairs are to be used as a relief design on a wall; the Great Dragon Chair and plaster figures may be moved into a play area.

Paul Drake, Gloucester's arts development officer, is delighted. "There's mileage here for long-term dialogue. It's got off to a flying start." And all the children seem to want to be art students when they grow up.

### WHERE TO TOUCH AND FEEL

● Further information from Mary Evans, Liaison Officer, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, Fullwood Lodge, Park Campus, PO Box 220, The Park, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL50 2QT (01242 532990).

● The college students' own course work can be seen in a sculpture festival called *Locations* in 20 sites around Gloucester's city centre and docks area from May 27 to 29. Free entrance; guided tours available.

A remarkable exhibition offers the sighted a chance to experience the world of permanent darkness

## Take a step into the kingdom of the blind

Normally, exhibitions that promise a "rich diet of touch, taste, smell and sound" should be avoided. Such descriptions are more applicable to a chi-chi restaurant than an artistic experience, but *Dialogue in the Dark* manages to justify its use of such a sensual tag line.

The installation, which lurks beneath the Queen Elizabeth Hall on the South Bank in London, contains four everyday environments - a living room with kitchen, a garden, a road crossing and a bar - all in darkness. The aim is to give those who have sight a taste of what it is like to be without it. And it really is dark - there is not even an exit sign to cast its ambient glow.

Visitors are accompanied by a visually-impaired guide, and for once it is the blind leading the sighted. Upon entering the installation, the smell of flowers constitutes the first non-visual assault, and plants brush visitors' legs as they shuffle cautiously forward. There is little doubt that this is the garden, but initially there is more concern over becoming

intimate with your fellow stumblers. For rest and relaxation, there is a garden bench to sit on from which the birdsong can be enjoyed.

The road crossing is amusing enough with its cones and cars, but a visit to the bar is a real revelation. There, Adam will serve a bottle of Bud or a glass of wine, and he is utterly trustworthy in identifying banknotes.

Service is slow, but it would be unreasonable to complain or say, "Can't you see I'm next?" *Dialogue in the Dark* is perhaps more of an educational experience than an artistic one. It succeeds in making the "viewer" appreciate blindness, and there is pathos in the realisation that the blind guide remains unseen. But surely that is fair. Or is it? After all, most of us can see the South Bank.

GUY WALTERS

● *Dialogue in the Dark*: for information contact the box office at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800). Tours last 40 minutes and tickets cost £5, concessions £2.50.

## Open invitation

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TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

### MUST-SEE DATES FOR YOUR

**LONDON**

Sadler's Wells May 25

● LONDON City Ballet's acclaimed production of *Giselle* returns to Sadler's Wells, and Theatre Club members are invited to meet the company over a glass of wine and a light buffet. Composed by Adolphe Adam more than 150 years ago, *Giselle* is one of the most celebrated Romantic ballets in the repertoire. It tells the story of a peasant girl who dies of a broken heart when she discovers that the man she has fallen in love with is betrothed to another. Galina Samsova's production, based on the original choreography by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, is designed by Peter Farmer and played by the London City Ballet Orchestra. Tickets are £27.50, including dress-circle seats, a free programme and after-show reception. Tel 0171-713 6000

Bridwell Theatre May 15-21

● SPRINGBOARD - the company of outstanding graduates of the National Student Drama Festival and National Student Theatre Company - presents *Thaikovsky in the Park*, a superb new play by Tim Fountain which tells the true story of Russia's great Romantic composer. Club members can

buy tickets for £5 (normally price £7). Tel 0181-833 4586

**EDINBURGH**

King's Theatre May 23-24

● BASED on the award-winning television series about village cricket and the people who play and watch it, *Outside Edge* stars Gareth Hunt and Diane Bull. Tickets half-price (normally £9.50, £10.50 and £12.50). Tel 0131-220 4349

**SCARBOROUGH**

Filmist Theatre May 16-18

● SAVE £5 on the top two ticket prices (normally £14.50 and £17.50) for *Cinderella on Ice*. Presented by the Russian All Stars - 24 top skaters who have won numerous Olympic medals - the show is an evening of fantastic family fun. Tel 01723 365789

**COVENTRY**

Belgrave Theatre May 15-21

● THE world premiere of *Fungus the Bogyman*, a musical adaptation of Raymond Briggs' book, spearheads the Children's Festival in Coventry Arts Alive. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one on the top two ticket prices (£6 to £12 depending on the performance). Tel 01203 553055

**WOLVERHAMPTON**

Grand Theatre June 5-10

● PATRICK MOWER and Irina Brook star in a new production of D.H. Lawrence's erotic masterpiece *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Club members can save £3 on all performances (tickets normally £4.50 to £14.50), while those at the first night can enjoy a complimentary glass of wine after the performance. Tel 01902 29212

**BLACKPOOL**

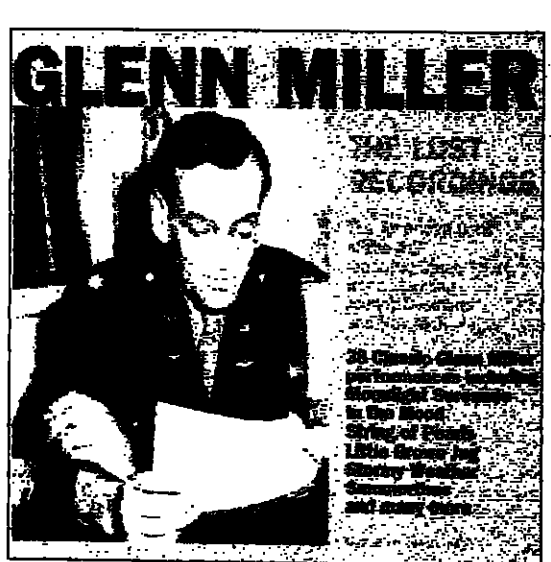
Grand Theatre June 6-7

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# ARTS

7

## RECORDINGS: Homage to French operetta; Mahler in chamber; Weller out of the woods

**OPERA/ETTES**  
John Higgins

**MAIS ET DUOS**  
D'OPÉRETTE  
Revolu/Vallin/Baugé  
EMI Classics 5 68292 2 0  
(2 CDs)\*\*\*

EMI's issue on the Belle Époque label is a homage to the soprano Fanny Revolu and the baritone André Baugé, stars of the Paris theatre in the 1930s and beyond although little known over here. Revolu's talents were especially French: a constant coquetry in the voice coupled with crystalline diction that could deflect almost any phrase with a double meaning. She created the title role in Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette* and was later a distinguished *Lazuli* in Chabrier's *L'Étoile*, now back in fashion thanks to John Eliot Gardiner and others.

Hahn does not feature here, but Chabrier does, plus a score of delectable numbers from composers still awaiting rediscovery. Most of them traded in the waltzes, romances and couplets favoured by the master himself, Offenbach. He is represented by the almost forgotten *Madame Favart* with a grape-picking number that might have inspired Vivian Ellis when he wrote *Bless The Bride*.

Revolu is confined to the French repertoire. Baugé tackles the central Europeans as well: Romberg, Primm and Lehár himself. Nelson Eddy is not too far away, but Baugé sticks to his native tongue and is generally happier with Messager and Lecocq, who require straightforward Gallic charm rather than New World machismo. Alas, none of the duets features Revolu. Instead there is Ninon Vallin, one of the best ever Charlottes in *Werther*, showing how to switch from grand opera to operetta, and the less distinguished Suzanne Laydeker.

Sound quality generally is better for Revolu than Baugé.

Barry Millington

**WAGNER**  
Six Overtures and Preludes  
New Queen's Hall Orchestra/  
Wordsworth  
Eye of the Storm EOS 5001  
(2 CDs)\*\*\*

THIS recording of Wagner overtures and preludes by the New Queen's Hall Orchestra

Wagner: "period" sound

is mould-breaking in more ways than one. First of all, it offers six pieces by Wagner on "period" instruments (not actually of the composer's time but from the turn of the century), thus pipping Roger Norrington and the London Classical Players to the post (a similar disc is due from them). Second, it boldly espouses the NQHO's philosophy that

spontaneity in performance is more important than technical perfection (less than perfect ensemble and fluffed notes thus stand uncorrected). Third, as a corollary to this, the pieces are presented in two performances each, sometimes varying considerably in tempo, duration and other details.

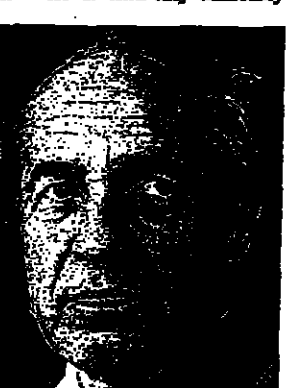
The results are fascinating. Wind and brass have restored to them the pungency of timbre of earlier instruments, while there is generally more character to the sound, less flattening out into blandly homogeneous sonorities, less ear-blasting from untamed wide-bore brass.

On the negative side, in addition to the technical imperfections (not too serious), these are rather lightweight interpretations from Barry Wordsworth. Nevertheless, this is a worthwhile set that thoroughly deserves investigating.

Stephen Pettitt

**BOULEZ**  
Various works  
Soloists/BBC Singers/  
BBCSO/Orchestre de Paris/  
Ensemble Intercontemporain/  
Boulez/Barenboim  
Erato 4509-98495-2  
(4 CDs)\*\*\*

THE reputation of Pierre Boulez's music is as something severe, far removed from the populist's dream, though I have never had any difficulty



Boulez: exquisite beauties

with its subtle, exquisite beauties, its prismatic play of light, its garnering of expressivity through ritual. This set of four discs (whose re-release coincides with that of two other boules, one consisting of three discs devoted to Boulez's Erato recordings of music by Stravinsky; the other, of five discs, containing his accounts of masterworks by Schoenberg, Carver, Berlioz, Kurtág and Xenakis) starts with the signal interpretative triumph of *Pli selon Pli*, that "fold by fold" portrait of Mallarmé. In Boulez's account made with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Phyllis Bryn-Julson and Elizabeth Lawrence in 1981.

The set spans nearly 40 years of musical creativity, from *Le soleil des eaux*, written in 1948, to the poignant *Memoriale* of 1986, dedicated to the memory of the flautist Lawrence Beaugard. The journey also takes in works such as *Rituel in memoriam Bruno Maderna*, *Messiaen*, *Quatuor*, the four orchestral *Notations*, *Figures*, *Double Prisms* and *Le Visage Nuptial*, representatives of one of music's most fascinating, deepest minds.

Challenging it may be, but nobody with an ounce of musical instinct could reasonably ignore this art.

Hilary Finch

**MAHLER/**  
**SCHOENBERG**  
Das Lied von der Erde  
Groop/Silvati/Sinfonia  
Lahti/Vanska  
BIS-CD 681\*\*\*

THE need to make big orchestral works more portable in the days before radio and recordings has provided us, in our days of aural overload, with an exquisitely poignant version of Mahler's song-cycle *The Song of the Earth*. Schoenberg took Mahler's settings of Chinese poetry and scored them for a chamber ensemble of wind quintet, string quintet, percussion, piano, celeste and harmonium, so that the work could travel and become known more widely.

This performance, by the excellent Finnish Lahti Orchestra's chamber ensemble, conducted by Osmo Vanska, tingles with urgent, lithe playing. And two of Finland's finest young singers, mezzo-soprano Monika Groop and tenor Jorma Silvati, recreate movingly the cycle's sense of a fearful, yet enraptured awareness of mortality.

Silvati's ardent, boyish tenor rises to the heady opening drinking song and transforms it to ecstasy and despair for *The Drunkard in the Spring*. The miniature wind-band, with piano and brush of cymbal, paints a fragile willow-pattern tableau for *Youth*; and Groop's barely accompanied mollen line of melody in the final song of *Departure* takes, daringly, almost as long as the eternity on which it meditates.

Clive Davis

**BRUCE ADAMS/ALAN**  
**BARNES**  
QUINTET  
Let's Face The Music...  
Big Bear ESSCD-269\*\*\*

**ALAN BARNES**  
Thirty Work  
Fret FICD-106\*\*\*

ALAN BARNES's music exploits a gratifying web of contrasts: hot and cool, impassioned and reflective, acerbic and tender. Perhaps the most versatile of the young British saxophonists, he adapts to any style without sacrificing his individuality.

He is making waves with the bebop quintet he co-leads with the trumpeter Bruce Adams. Their second album is as bright and snappy as their debut. Adams's solos crackling through the speakers as he breathlessly pursues Barnes through a string of serpentine choruses.

Thirty Work has even more to recommend it since the varied settings — for sextet, quintet and quartet — allow Barnes even more room for manoeuvre. The result is a continuous stream of surprises: Horace Silver's funky *Ecaroh* gives way to the tripping nostalgia of *Stars Fell On Alabama*, the slightly cheesy beach-party ambience of Sergio Mendes's *Groovy Samba* is followed by a funereal *Sweet and Lovely*. The group arrangements are sturdy enough to keep the players from slipping into a rut, but loose enough to allow for maximum spontaneity, and Barnes's youthful sidemen respond with fire and wit.

David Sinclair

**PAUL WELLER**  
Stanley Road  
Go! Discs 828 619\*\*\*

ALTHOUGH *Stanley Road* is bound to be branded Son of *Wild Wood*, and marked down accordingly, Paul Weller's latest offering is, if anything, a stronger collection of songs than its much-admired predecessor. True, the choice of Dr John's gumbo-voODOO classic *I Walk On Gilded Splinters* was ill-advised. But elsewhere, especially on the singles, *Out Of The Sinking* and *The Changing Man*, Weller plays to his natural strengths, chopping out words, chords and the odd, woody guitar solo with tremendous flair.

## NEW ON VIDEO: From a killing spree in Paris to the worst film in the world

**KILLING ZOE**  
PolyGram, 18, 1994  
ZOE, funny, never gets killed. But plenty of others do in this callous and flashy thriller from Tarantino buddy Roger Avary. Jean-Hughes Anglade leads a gang botching a bank robbery in Paris, their minds impaired by the previous night's overdose of drink, heroin and Babeland jazz. Eric Stoltz plays the group's wary American safecracker. Not a film with anything to say, but if you want blood, nihilism and a smattering of style, here they are. Available to rent.

**THE LADY OF THE CAMELIAS**  
Arrow, 15, 1981  
ISABELLE HUPPERT is as watchable as ever as the Paris courtesan who inspired Dumas's play *Camille*, though the American dubbing mauls your ears and the entire production is over-upholstered with plush settings. Italian director Mauro Bolognini coasts through the show with impersonal efficiency.

**MUCH ADO ABOUT MOUSING**  
MGM/UA, U  
VOLUME six of the Tom and Jerry video series includes four cartoons from the 1960s, when the cat and mouse antics were beginning to lose their appeal and corners were cut with the animation. But the tape perks up with *Kitty Foiled*, a gem from 1948, where Tom's desperate measures included running over Jerry with a toy train.

**PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE**  
Pickwick, PG, 1956  
WHILE Britain waits with bated breath for Tim Burton's *Ed Wood*, a loving biography of the man once voted the world's worst film director, the master's most famous work hits the video shelves. The badness of this sci-fi fodder is undeniable, but in no other film do zombie acting, tinpot sets, collapsing props and absurd dialogue combine to cast such a hypnotic spell. Also available:



Cash withdrawal: Jean-Hughes Anglade leads a drug-crazed gang of bank robbers in Paris in *Killing Zoe*

Wood's equally ludicrous *Night of the Ghouls* (1958) and a crime thriller *Jail Bait* (1954) — by Wood's bizarre standards almost a well-made film.

**SECOND BEST**  
Warner, 12, 1994  
WILLIAM HURT is not obvious casting for a withdrawn Welsh postmaster with NHS specs, ginger hair and a transpotter's anorak. But his laid-back acting suits the hero of David Cook's novel, a lonely man seeking fulfilment by adopting a prickly 11-year-old who remains

fiercely loyal to a father serving time in jail. The central relationship is delicately observed, laced with wry humour, and child actor Chris Cleary Miles is quite a find. Directed by Chris Menges.

**SPIRITS OF THE DEAD**  
Arrow, 18, 1967  
OTHERWISE known as *Histoires Extraordinaires* or *Tales of Mystery*, this portmanteau film puts three European directors to work on the lesser-known stories of Edgar Allan Poe. Roger Vadim extracts little from

*Metzengerstein* except Jane Fonda prancing about in fancy costumes. But Louis Malle's treatment of *William Wilson*, with Alain Delon as an Austrian officer haunted by his double, has a clinical splendour and exquisite design. The chief glory is Fellini's *Toby Dammit*, with Terence Stamp as a dissolute actor on the road to hell. The dubbed English-language soundtrack causes problems at times: in the Malle segment, Brigitte Bardot's new voice is laughable.

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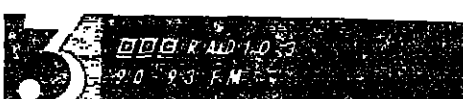
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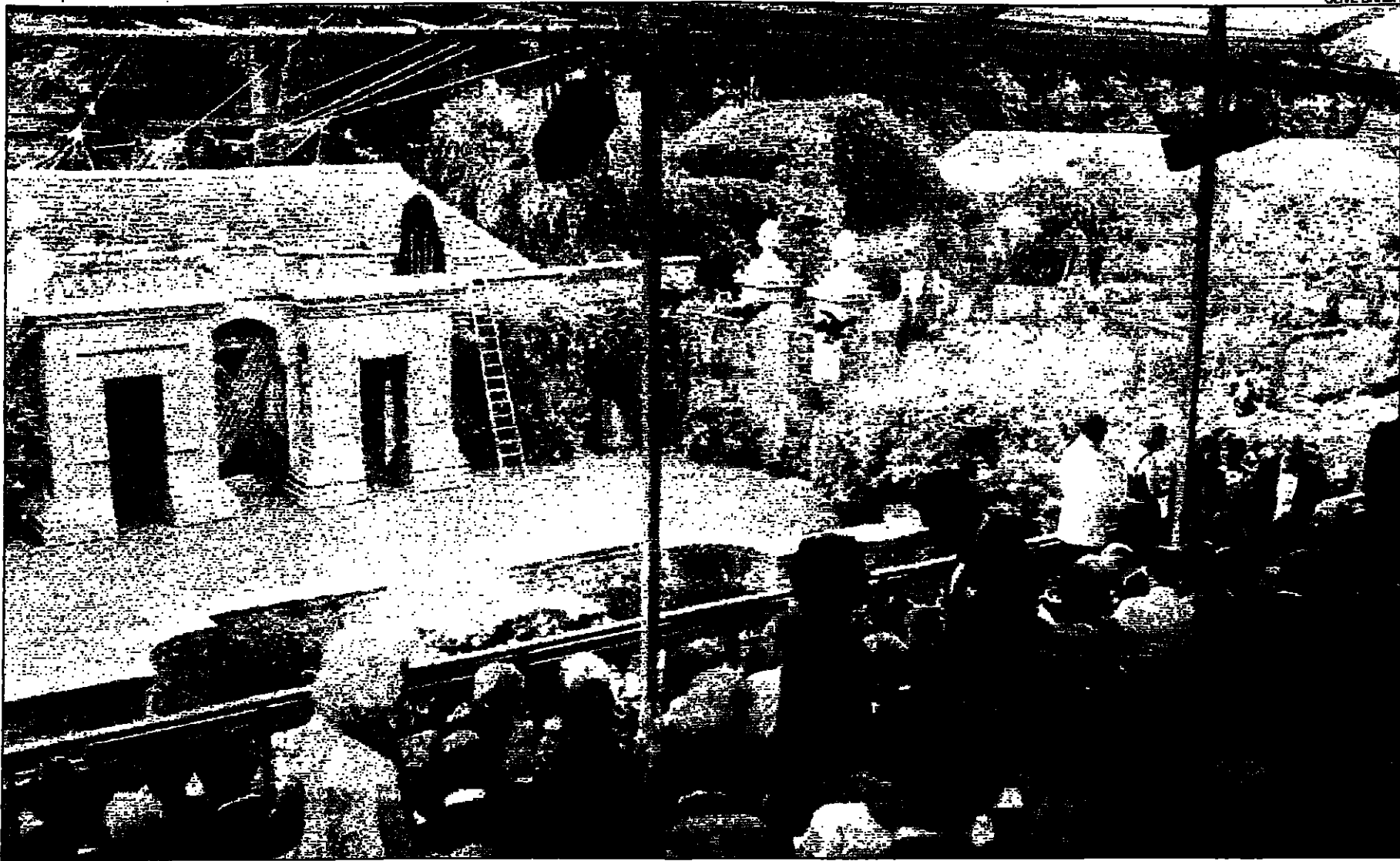
# PATHETIQUE OR MAGNIFIQUE?

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George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, looks at garden settings for outdoor operas



At Garsington Manor, near Oxford, performances are given on the stone terrace to one side of the house. A stone-pillared loggia makes a perfect stage backdrop

## Rossini among the roses

The idyllic mix of gardens and opera is celebrated in performances each summer at a number of country houses. Even when the opera is staged indoors, the gardens are there to be enjoyed during a pre-performance stroll or the interval for dinner.

When it was announced that the Glyndebourne opera house was to be enlarged, many devotees were concerned that the garden might suffer. Their worries were that, whatever the quality of the performances, the garden might not remain integral to Glyndebourne's appeal. Admiring the plants and the views to the Sussex Downs and picnicking beside the garden's long, white border of summer perennials and shrubs, completed the artistic feast which opera alone might not offer.

They need not have worried. The rebuilt opera house is surrounded by even more garden. New areas, in particular the Figaro garden, linking into a walled garden, extend up one side of the opera house. They add to the old garden of yew-hedged lawns and borders in front of the house, which are the traditional places for picnics.

Garsington Manor, near Oxford, is a house and garden made famous by Philip and Lady Ottoline Morrell, who lived there from 1915 to 1926, and entertained their Bloomsbury friends, such as Virginia Woolf. Under the present owners, Leonard and Rosalind Ingrams, summer opera performances are in their seventh season and the superb garden is integral to visitors' enjoyment. Performances are given on the broad, stone terrace to one side of the house.

Behind the terrace, the stone-pillared loggia designed by Philip Morrell makes a perfect stage backdrop. In front is the main lawn, where the audience sits in a covered stand. The lawn slopes gently to the pool terrace with classical statues standing against alcoves in the surrounding yew hedges, each figure pin-pointed with its own spotlight.

To one side of the terrace is the entrance to the walled parterre, Garsington's garden forte. This is planned to be in full flower during the opera season in June and July. The pattern of box-hedged beds, divided by paths lined with pairs of slender columnar yews, are filled with shrub roses and numerous annuals such as antirrhinums, cosmos, massed sweet peas and standard fuchsias.

The Garsington parterre demonstrates how practical considerations dictate a successful union of opera and garden. For all owners of country houses offering opera, garden management is geared to an annual peak when their performances are staged. The vagaries of summer weather usually mean that the best-laid plans are put to the test. Border planting of



Wisteria arch at Pyrford Court

perennials or shrubs geared to a late-May/June zenith can be over before the first word is sung. This year is no exception. Places where the opera season starts in May, such as Glyndebourne and Pyrford Court, Surrey, are faced with late tulips, peonies and azaleas, which would usually last well into June.

At Glyndebourne, Lady Christie's solution is to stock up with a good supply of annuals that come into flower over a long season, and abundant reserves that can be

controlled in a greenhouse and put out when needed. She cites the example of the daturas, whose appearance is closely associated with the closing weeks of the Glyndebourne season in August. Carefully brought on in greenhouses, these decorative plants are managed so that their luxuriant foliage and richly scented trumpet-like flowers provide a sumptuous display at the right time.

There are other considerations that make for maximum audience enjoyment. Sheltered enclosures, protected by yew hedges, as at Glyndebourne or Garsington, are an advantage for picnics. Another bonus is that there are paths leading to different areas of a garden, enabling people to disperse and move around without a bottleneck. The Figaro garden at Glyndebourne was designed with this in mind; and some paths were made wide enough, and without steps, for wheelchairs.

Some places become renowned for a particular garden highlight, such as Pyrford Court's wisterias. The Court was built in 1906 in Georgian style by the architect Clyde Young for Lord Iveagh. The garden was designed by his wife,

with advice from Gertrude Jekyll, her friend and near neighbour. The operas, which were started by the present owners, Cyril and Jill Laikin, are this year celebrating their tenth season. The performances are fortnightly, from late May to August. During the early weeks, the mass of wisterias which cover the house, the summerhouse and two long pergolas bordering adjoining sides of the four-acre main lawn, are something no visitor forgets.

At How Caple Court in Herefordshire, the 11 acres of classical garden provide an enlarged, theatrical stage set. Laid out by the grandfather of the present owner, Peter Lee, and his wife Hilda, they combine architectural terraces with exuberant water features, such as the water staircase. Performances take place on a large, sunken lawn shaped like a natural arena; a sheltered site for a stage surrounded by a semi-circle of tiered seating.

This is the National Trust's centenary year and its programme of outdoor musical events has been much enlarged. Operas, or more correctly in some cases, operettas, are being performed in a selection of the Trust's most enjoyable garden settings, such as Basildon Park, Berkshire; Polesden Lacey, Surrey; Avebury Manor, Wiltshire; Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire; and Blickling Hall, Norfolk.

English Heritage is mounting a similar opera programme, Belsay Hall in Northumberland being the outstanding setting of its various country house locations.

Gardens to visit, page 22

□ Glyndebourne, Ringmer, East Sussex. Season: May 22-Aug 27; tickets from £105 (less for restricted view). For information and bookings call 01273 812321.

□ Garsington Manor, near Oxford. Season June 11-July 9. Tickets from £65. Presently fully booked but check cancellations on 01865 361636. (Garden open until Oct 1).

□ Pyrford Court, near Woking, Surrey. Season May 20-Aug 26. Tickets from £52 (£47 for friends of

Pyrford). For information call 01483 765880. (Garden open May 13-14 and Oct 15).

□ How Caple Court, Herefordshire. One performance June 17. Tickets from £20. For information call 01989 740626. Garden open Easter until Oct. Mon-Sat (Sun. May-Oct).

□ For information about all National Trust performances send an A5 A6 to The National Trust, PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL.

□ English Heritage details on 0171-973 3427.

## GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON  
replies to readers' letters

Q If you weed the lazy way, by simply pulling off the emergent leaves, there should be an ideal time to do it. Too early, and there is still energy left in the root to make more leaves. Too late, and the new leaves are making energy to feed the roots. I am thinking especially of bindweed. When should I decapitate it? — John Struthers, Southampton.

A As a rule, allow a plant to make all the growth it can, short of making a useful area of leaf. Bracken, for instance, should be cut when it has put all its energy into making that tall stalk but before the leaves unscroll from it. Repeating this treatment over three or more years will often kill it.

Ground elder is best given no quarter at all, as it spreads leaf so quickly. Pull the leaves off as soon as you can get hold of them. If it is lurking under shrubs, slide the hover mower under the bushes as you pass. Leave no enclave untouched.

Bindweed is harder than either of these to defeat by constant defoliation. Nipping off finger-length wisps has to be done with determined regularity, and always there will be those stems which have sidled into some other plant and hope to pass unnoticed in a crowd.

It is best to wait until the bindweed stems are a foot or so long, and then pull them off, hopefully with the top of the white root attached. Burn or bin these. If you leave them lying around you will find blackbirds flinging the white roots around the bed, disappointed that they are not worms. They do the same with the perennial scarlet nasturtium (*Tropaeolum speciosum*), whose roots are disturbingly similar.

You can, of course, train bindweed on to canes and then rub the leaves with a weedkiller containing glyphosate. This will kill it — eventually.

Q Last year I planted two *Magnolia soulangeana* in my lawn. The soil is heavy clay. This year they have not flowered, but they are coming into leaf. Should I improve the soil, prune them, or feed them? — Mrs I. Da Silva, Hampstead, north London.

A The question is, are they growing properly? If so, flower will follow. Do not prune them: the only pruning they will ever need is, perhaps, to restrict the size one day. Magnolias have

a nasty habit of sitting dormant after planting, neither growing nor flowering satisfactorily. The best recipe is to put an undisturbed pot-grown rootball into a well-prepared hole, with lots of coarse manure and compost added in advance. Grow it fast, like a cabbage, for leaf and stem, for a year or two. Then let it settle down to flowering, giving an annual mulch of compost to satisfy its greedy, succulent roots.

Perhaps you planted your magnolias properly and they are content to make wood rather than flower for this year? Perhaps you made a mean hole of unimproved clay and they are sulking? So long as they grow well this year, leave them alone and wait.

If they are refusing to grow well, either replant them in better soil, or cut them down to six inches next spring and shock them into action.

Q I am going to Greece to stay with friends and would like to take seeds as a present. They are busy restoring a property and have no time for gardening. I would like to sow something pretty for them that will stand heat, drought and neglect. — Mrs S. Rhodes, Leichworth, Hertfordshire.

A Take some spider flowers (*Cleome*). They grow so much better in hot climates that you wonder why we bother with them here. They will be bushy and a yard across, like pink clumps of *Euphorbia characias*. Take that, too: it will self-seed in future years.

Against white-painted walls, which you find everywhere in Greece, the red tassels of love-lies-bleeding (*Amaranthus caudatus*) make a fabulous, stark display. The tall double opium poppies will do well, as will California poppies (*Eschscholzia*) and prickly poppies (*Argemone*).

Take, too, the giant fennel (*Ferula communis*), which will make a mound of feathery foliage and, in future years, send up a large pole of particularly stunning green flowers.

● Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9AN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

## WEEKEND TIPS

- The seed of spring and early-summer flowering biennials, such as wallflowers, honesty and forget-me-nots, should be sown into a seedbed for flowering next year.
- Plant half-hardy annuals and tender perennials in tubs and hanging baskets and keep them in a greenhouse or conservatory until the end of the month.
- Half-hardy or tender annual perennials plants you have raised should now be hardened off for planting out.
- Prune all varieties of Clematis montana immediately after flowering. Pruning is necessary only to keep a plant to desired size or shape, but doing it later will remove new growth on which the plant produces flowers.

There are few sights in May as beautiful as a pergola heavily draped in the laburnum's vibrant colour, says Stephen Anderton

Nothing but moss grows under our laburnum tree. In May, Pickwickian bees bumble about on its soft carpet, drunk or overloaded with nectar. Maybe they have an awful headache, for the light under a big laburnum is, for the three weeks of flowering, nothing but yellowness.

I remember planting laburnums as a child, and being impressed by the roots which were like no roots I had ever seen before — fat, rubbery, blunt-ended like new pencils, and curiously yellow.

Gardeners can get very snuffy about laburnums, mostly perhaps because the colour is so strong, so insistent while it lasts, so very... yellow. The more I see of laburnums, the more I want to grow them — well, and in a big way.

The laburnum pergolas at Bodnant Gardens, in north Wales, and at Barnsley House, near Cirencester in Gloucestershire, are legendary. They are science-fiction corridors of vegetable matter, and a tribute to the loving care given them by gardeners. Every inch of interwoven stem drips yellow stalactites of flower, cleverly promoted by spur-pruning, as you would an apple tree for blossom and fruit. Every winter, fresh stems are tied in to thicken the cover, and the new shoots are pruned back to the spurs.

But what fun it would be to train laburnum to the top of an open, flat-topped, wooden per-

## The tree that drips golden treasure

gola, so that the flowers hung down as a fringe from each cross-member, in a series of receding stripes, like tassled pelmets. With careful training, laburnum could be used to clothe a house end-wall top to bottom in a blanket of flower, or worked in a more precise pattern of stems, such as running arches or a spiral twisting its way around a pillar.

The two common species of laburnum, *L. alpinum* and *anagyroides*, both from central and southern Europe, have been crossed to produce *L. x watereri* 'Vossii', which has particularly long swags of flower. It is virtually sterile, too, so it produces almost no pods or seeds, which is a mixed blessing. I rather like to hear the clusters of dry seed pods of *anagyroides* clattering on the tree in the winter winds. They give the tree another season of interest.

With 'Vossii' all that is lost;



The laburnum's yellow stalactites of flower

compromise. Seedling laburnums vary a lot in the length of the flower swag and in the intensity of the colour. The Dorothy Clive garden, at Willoughbridge, Staffordshire, has a long, low pergola, planted with a range of seedling laburnums, each with a subtly varied flower, and interspersed here and there with the 'pink laburnum', *Laburno-cytisus adamii*, a cross between broom and laburnum. The sudden lapse into pink is most disconcerting.

Young laburnum bark is attractively pale green and smooth. Seedlings grow at an astonishing speed and the pliable, sappy stems are amenable to all kinds of twisting and training. Break one and you see the ever-present yellow pigment under the bark. You might almost expect the wood to be yellow, but it is creamy white at the outside with a dark brown heart-wood. It is

Superb *Laburnum x watereri* 'Vossii' at Barnsley House gardens in Gloucestershire

dense, close-grained and much prized by turners and cabinet makers. Even timber merchants, who like to pretend that the market for whatever wood you want to sell is always depressed, will admit to the value and desirability of laburnum wood.

If I had a choice between

cutting down a good, healthy laburnum tree or taking a considered risk on my child eating bits of this admittedly poisonous tree, I would keep the tree. That age when babes put everything in the mouth is brief enough: I could face snipping the spent flowers off a small tree, if necessary, just

for one or two seasons. Human life, after all, is short, and laburnum trees can live much longer than us.

The big laburnum in our garden is, frankly, a monster, and is almost a wood in itself, in the middle of other trees. In its youth it must have fallen over, but it was left to survive.

It now measures more than 35 paces across the canopy. Every year new, vertical trunks arise from the horizontal main trunks, leaning outwards to the light and eventually leaning down in their turn, sometimes splitting at the base but rarely fatally. And so the spread continues. It would be hard to put an age to it because no one stem represents its full lifespan, but it must be well over 100.

When I gardened in London, on thin powdery city soil, laburnums would regularly keel over in middle age, when the weight of canopy got too much for those simplistic, cartoon roots to support. Usually the tree had to go, to save its neighbours from suffocation or flattening. But sometimes I wish I had let them survive, and see how they made good lying on one elbow. If Roman emperors could spend half their life luxuriating on one elbow, why should not a tree?

Certainly, a laburnum which has heaved its not necessarily going to die. There is a case for thinning some branches, making it look a little less toppled, and waiting and seeing. So long as one half of the root plate is still in the ground and supplying the tree with food and water, then it stands a good chance of going on to be its own small grove of laburnum trunks in a few years. Be a little patient, and see what pleasures await.







# Facts at your fingertips

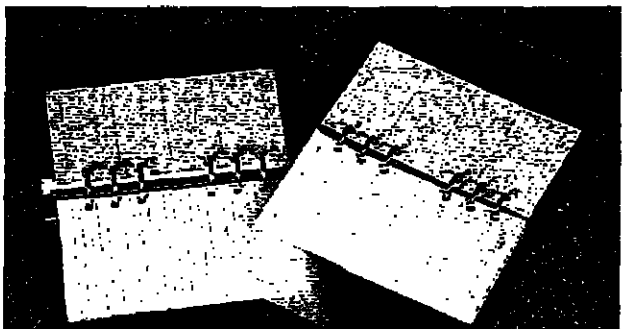
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IN THE 1980s, personal organisers became a status symbol for the young. Expensive, seemingly essential, every self-respecting yuppie clutched a fat organiser under the arm. The recession was closely followed by a dip in sales, but in the past two years organisers have been reborn in a very different form. They are no longer an aspirational accessory reserved for City types. Prices have dropped, and a wider range of brands, styles and sizes have been introduced.



## Muji Personal Planner

**THE Japanese shop, Muji, has Personal Planner covers (above) in aluminium (£18.50), black fibre-board (£6.75) or clear plastic (£5.50). Insertions are sold separately.**

● 16 Great Marlborough Street, London W1 (0171-494 1197); 38 Shelton Street, London WC2 (0171-379 1331); 157 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-376 2484); 63-67 Queen Street, Glasgow (0141-248 7455). Concessions in Liberty stores in Brighton, Oxford and Cheltenham.

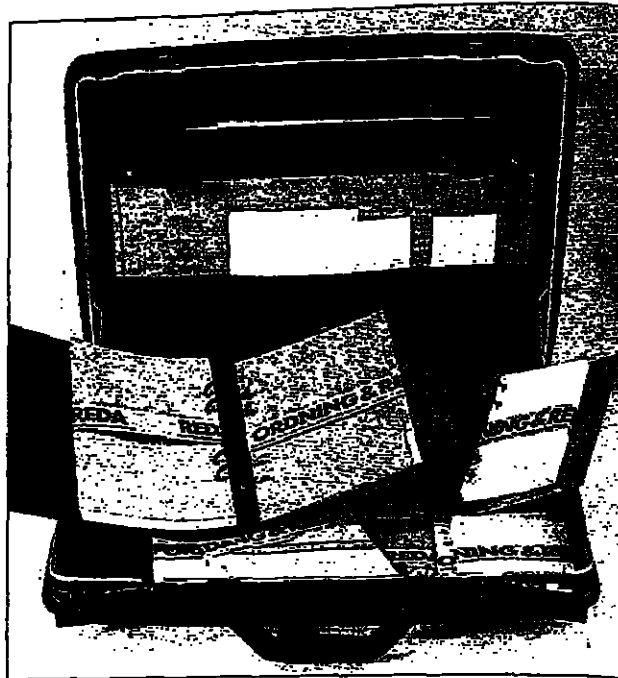
**College and School**  
**Filofax**

THESE are two fairly new models for Filofax, designed with students in mind.

The College Organiser (above) is made from suede-effect vinyl and is available in blue, green, red or black. It has pockets for credit and student cards, a notepad on the back cover, a pen loop and a fastener. Priced at £17, its contents include an academic year diary, timetables and address sheets.

The School Filofax is similar in content but comes in black nylon finish only. Priced at £10.99.

● Filofax items are available at selected branches of John Lewis, House of Fraser, WH Smith, Boots or ring 0171-432 3000 for your nearest stockists.



### Ordning & Reda personal organiser

**ORDNING & Reda** is a Swedish stationery shop specialising in hand-made paper products. Its organisers (above) are shaped like ring-binders with no fastener and come in A5 and A6 sizes. They are available in a black, blue, mushroom, red or grey fabric finish and cost £12.50 for the A5 size and £10 for A6.

The insert pack includes a diary, year planner and address section, and costs £10 (A5) or £7.50 (A6). Pads of recycled paper (£2.50) and plastic stick-on pockets for business cards and data discs (20p to 70p) are also available.

Although all the organiser contents are written in Swedish, it is actually not too difficult to follow them, and the overall look is hip and alternative.

● **Ordering & Reda, 22 New Row, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-240 8090).**

MULBERRY has seen a growth in sales of planners, which founder and designer Roger Saul attributes to "people getting more personal. They are moving away from computer pocket books and writing down information again."

The classic Mulberry organiser (above) is made from embossed cowhide and is a favourite with women. Available in three sizes, the largest being 18cm x 23cm, all planners include features such as a credit card holder, diary, year planner, notepad, list of forthcoming British social and sporting events and a guide to some of the best restaurants around the world. Priced at £215, it is stylish but weighty.

● **Mulberry, 11 Gees Court, London W1M 5HQ (0171-493 2546).** Available by mail and also stocked at selected House of Fraser stores and John Lewis.

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# SHOPPING

11 3



Rachel Campbell-Johnston in sunglasses by Versace, priced £115

## Casting light on summer's shades

Sunglasses protect against cataracts and eye strain. Rachel Campbell-Johnston takes a long, cool look at this year's range

Men seldom make passes at girls who wear glasses," declared Dorothy Parker. But when it comes to shades, such sentimentality is turned on its head. Sunglasses transform you in one deft stroke from frump to fashionplate, from geek to groover.

"Sunglasses can be tribal, like a mask," says Tony Gross, of Cutler & Gross. "People wear them because they look good, not because the sun is shining — some of my styles look best on top of the head, worn like an Alice band." But sunglasses are about more than fashion. They provide important protection against solar radiation. After two hours in bright sunlight unprotected eyes can have trouble adjusting to night vision.

And it gets worse. Ultraviolet rays can cause serious damage, including cataracts, corneal blistering, and, in extreme cases, keratitis, or snow blindness. Infra-red rays can be absorbed into the lens making it more sensitive to UV damage, or absorbed by the cornea creating a drying effect and fatigue.

The colour of the lenses in a pair of sunglasses has nothing to do with filtering out the glare. If they are darkened but not protective it is more damaging to wear them than not. A safe guide is the British Standard BS2724 which measures the degree of protection, the degree of distortion and the strength of the lenses. (Glasses imported from Europe have a different CE9686 standard.) The quality of the UV filter can be assured by checking for the manufacturer's UV400 stan-

dard which eliminates both UVA and UVB rays. An anti-reflection coating is also a good idea. By cutting down excess reflection this not only makes the lens clearer and more attractive, but also reduces strain by increasing the transmission of light. This is especially important for drivers.

Most efficient brands of sunglasses — and this certainly does not include the fake Ray-Bans which suitcase-wielding tourists offer you for a fiver — have more or less the same quality of lens. When it comes to designer eyewear you pay for the style — the satisfaction of having specs to suit your sports car. A pair of Jackie O-shaped Versace shades with a trademark Greek key pattern in gilt will complement your Mustang tan perfectly, but will set you back about £115.

For men, the Medusa head Versace logo embossed in pewter to match pewter mirror lenses set in sleek black frames will cost about £99. But for those who like designer labels, what better place to wear them than on your face? However, if a more discreet exclusivity is your style, then Cutler & Gross is a good place to look. Its creations eclipse the eyes of royalty, rockstars and supermodels. Designs start at around £79 for off-the-shelf glasses and rise to about £185 for tailor-made. Its sunglasses can be made with prescription lenses or especially moulded to fit your face. Cutler & Gross's stylistic range



For those who like designer labels, where better to wear them than on your face? Versace's pewter Medusa head logo, inset, matches the pewter mirror lenses, £99



For men, clockwise from left: shades from Ray-Ban, Visions and Marks & Spencer

transmission of light. This is especially important for drivers. Most efficient brands of sunglasses — and this certainly does not include the fake Ray-Bans which suitcase-wielding tourists offer you for a fiver — have more or less the same quality of lens. When it comes to designer eyewear you pay for the style — the satisfaction of having specs to suit your sports car. A pair of Jackie O-shaped Versace shades with a trademark Greek key pattern in gilt will complement your Mustang tan perfectly, but will set you back about £115.

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mutates faster than scientific theories on UV light. It has everything from classics to glamour frames, from clip-ons to "crystal tips" — this year's whackiest design which combines clear frames with pink and blue lenses — the perfect sugar coating to Barbie-doll fashions.

Lenses come in an exotic variety of tints ranging from mint green to orange mirror, with more practical variations along the way — such as Computer Lilac, which is designed to cut down the glare from VDU screens, or Sloane Dark Green

which, by keeping contrast clear, is excellent for driving.

But if too much choice seems blinding, then a good alternative are the classic Ray-Bans. Its Way-farer range costs upwards of £65, and although the glass lenses can be a bit heavy for active wear, they are shatterproof and scratch less easily than plastic ones. Ray-Bans are also extremely hard-wearing.

More expensive glasses have strong joints which can be tightened periodically, and frames are made of quality plastics which

won't become brittle. But for those who lose their sunglasses long before they wear them out, or chew at the arms until they begin to dissolve, a cheaper pair might suit, as long as the lenses are good.

Visions has a wide selection of metal, plastic and handmade frames, costing from about £10.50 to £35. Alternatively Marks & Spencer has some of the best value and the most effective sunglasses. The frames are light and pliable, the designs basic but classic, and a pair will set you back just £11 — a

price that includes cord, glass case and cleaning cloth.

So this summer, if you don't want to find yourself staring at life as it really is, slip on some shades — draw down the blinds to the windows of your soul — and prepare yourself for some languid summer posing.

● Cutler & Gross, 16 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1 (0171-581 2250); Marks & Spencer, at stores nationwide; Ray-Ban and Visions sunglasses available nationwide; Versace, for stockists, call 0171-699 1862.



For women, clockwise from left: competitive prices from Visions; prescription lenses at Cutler & Gross; light frames from Marks & Spencer; and glasses to match your Mustang tan from Versace

Jerry's Home Stores specialises in well-made, well-priced basics with an American flavour.

## Where to see the stars and stripes

To the delight of those who previously filled suitcases with typically American homewares on trips across the Atlantic, the best popcorn poppers, taco fryers and feast-sized crockery are now available at Jerry's Home Store in Fulham, London, Kingston upon Thames, southwest London, and a concession in Harvey Nichols, London.

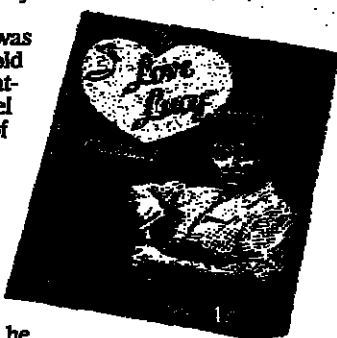
Jerry's, opened in 1993, was the brainchild of 39-year-old Jeremy Sacher, the great-grandson of Michael Marks, the founder of Marks & Spencer. Jerry's specialises in well-made basics at affordable prices. What it does not set out to be, says Sacher, is at the cutting edge of fashion. "We don't offer the latest designer gadgets," he says. "We do classic, functional products, all presented with a distinctively American flavour."

Jerry's now sells more classic KitchenAid mixers, at £329, than any other outlet in the UK, and has consequently been granted the retailing coup of exclusive stocks in the form of the brand new, sparkling, all-chrome version, which sells at a hefty £399.

Exclusivity is the vital ingredient in the success of the store. About 80 per cent of the merchandise is only available from Jerry's.

One of its bestselling items is the classic American Pop-

corn Popper (£27.50). White Cat Corn from Hamburg, Illinois (£4.50 per jar), and a selection of seasonings complete the package. Perfect for popcorn is the Stars and Stripes bowl (£11.50). Also available in the same range is a huge pitcher, which costs £23.95, and chunky flag mugs for £9.95. The range is com-



American cookbook, £6

plemented by decent-sized denim napkins at £4.95. The use of American place names to identify merchandise is popular at Jerry's. It has Chicago, Vermont and Manhattan cutlery ranges, Boston Beer Flutes (£3.50) and Harvard Tankards (£12.95). The Nantucket tableware collection comes with bright primary-coloured rims (£1.95 for a dinner plate, £1.65 for a side plate).

Its ever-increasing range of cookbooks is popular too. Titles such as *Dad's Own Cookbook* (£9.99) and *The*



The chrome KitchenAid, £399, is exclusive to Jerry's

*Gone With The Wind Cookbook* (£6) sit alongside publications by the US cookery specialists Williams Sonoma (£11.95 each). Customers are encouraged to ring the store with queries about translating American recipes for English use — and Jerry's stocks a full range of American measuring utensils to help to smooth the way when gathering ingredients.

Foodstuffs have been a

surprise hit. They include standard stocks such as Texas Red Snapper Bloody Mary Mix (£3.50) and drums of East Shore seasoned pretzels (£7.95). The store has everything you need to bake, and sells goldfish-shaped cheese crackers packaged in a plastic beach bucket (£5.95). Southern tastebuds are satisfied with Legend Barbeque Sauce (£3.50), which adds the final touch to food cooked in a

Taco Fryer (£6.95), and served on the Taco Rack (£6.95), which ingeniously solves the problem of overloaded taco shells spilling everywhere.

Though kitchen wares and culinary delights are the focal point of Jerry's, the shop also stocks early American-style Mission cherrywood furniture, handbuilt in Vermont. The pieces range from a lamp table, £395, to a stannous sideboard at £1,885. The collection is elegantly simple and functional.

Packs of three aromatic cedarwood hangers (£17.50) can be found among a huge selection of products. Impressive framed prints by Jasper Johns and Edward Hopper embody the American dream on paper and sell alongside rufly little photograph frames in leather, gold leaf and wood (from £14.95).

KAREN KAY

● Jerry's Home Store: 163 Fulham Road, London, SW3 (0171-581 0909); The Bentall Centre, Kingston upon Thames, southwest London (0181-549 5393); The 4th Floor, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London, SW1 (0171-245 6251). Head office (0171-225 2249).

Open Monday to Saturday (except Bank Holidays) 10am-6pm; Sundays noon to 6pm.

● Jerry's will mail products anywhere in the world on payment of postage and packing. For inquiries, call the Fulham Road branch. Goods are gift wrapped free of charge, except during the pre-Christmas period.

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### Mark Florentine's new flat looks over Newcastle's city centre

[illegible]



## BOOKS

## Science needs a life (or two) of its own

Britons, with an insatiable appetite for details of the lives of the great, excel at biography, but scientific heroes have been strangely neglected

This week the AT&T Award, Britain's biggest non-fiction prize, went to a rank outsider. Mark Hudson's *Coming Back* (Cape, £16.99), a highly personal portrait of a Durham mining village, outpointed such heavyweights as Nelson Mandela's autobiography, Juliet Barker's *The Brontës* and Humphrey Burton's authorised life of Leonard Bernstein. Hudson came to the Savoy, saw Alan Clark, chairman of the judges, praise his book above all for the quality of its prose; and, having conquered, left £25,000 richer.

Everyone is pleased to see such a prize go to a writer who not only deserves it but also needs the money and the kudos. But the judges of literary prizes are not allowed to take authors' circumstances into account. More significantly, there was general approval among the guests of the fact that, for once, the prize had not gone to an example of the genres which

have dominated the non-fiction scene for so long: biography and autobiography. There are sound reasons why biography is so popular with the British. As a nation, we have an insatiable curiosity about the lives of the great, the good and especially the bad. This curiosity expresses itself in forms which are only in the most literal sense literary (e.g. tabloid journalism), but also in works which, from an astonishingly early date, consciously seek to transmute that eager inquisitiveness into great literature: Aubrey's *Brief Lives*, for example, or Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*. We excel at biography, particularly literary biography, and not only in the Anglophone sphere: the best lives of Goethe, Ibsen, Rousseau, Balzac, Stendhal and Mazzini (to name a handful) are all by Britons.

Above all, the British read biography because they have no qualms about hero-worship: our last dictator was Cromwell, and even he has never lacked admiring biographers. The present taste for biographies that debunk the great is itself parasitical on an unspoken presumption that human greatness is a meaningful category. Is there a limit to the number of biographies in quick succession that any given subject can sustain? Publishers used to claim that the hundredth life of Napoleon will always sell better than the first life of any neglected figure; but the laws of supply and demand still apply. Oddly enough, Napo-

leon has himself been neglected. When Artemis Cooper recently told me that she had embarked on a book about him, I raised an eyebrow; but she pointed out that the last full-length biography in English had been by Vincent Cronin, a quarter of a century ago. A generation is probably the right sort of gap between major biographies. But the blight of the anniversary sends publishers into overdrive. The last important study of Puccini until the tercentenary was J. A. West-

rup's in 1937; so far this year, I have already seen at least five new books on the composer, with two major biographies (by Jonathan Keates and Richard Luckett) still to come. Two Anna Akhmatova in the past two years, another Cyril Connolly is in the pipeline to add to Clive Fisher's recent one, and several books on Graham Greene appeared almost simultaneously last year; not to mention Trollope or the Brontës. One area has been conspicuously neglected by the best British biographers. Now that

Darwin (Cape, £25), looks formidable even daunting, but is in fact an admirably lucid biography by a professional Darwinian scholar. *The Moral Animal: Why We Are the Way We Are* by the American journalist Robert Wright (Little, Brown, £20) is also largely about Darwin, but examines him as a case study in "the new science of evolutionary psychology". Browne treats the study of Darwin as an end in itself, while Wright treats his life as a means to understanding our own, concluding that Darwin, like us, was at bottom "an animal". The Australian historian Stephen Gaukroger's *Descartes: an intellectual biography* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, £25) tackles a no less seminal (and colourful) figure, and exemplifies the academic approach. The dif-

ference between Browne's Darwin and Gaukroger's Descartes is that Cartesian physics, though two centuries older than Darwinian zoology, was already more abstract and is consequently harder for the layman. This is a pity, for Gaukroger writes well and his important book will certainly excite all students of 17th-century thought. But there remains room for a more accessible life. It will be illuminating to compare this work with Noel Malcolm's forthcoming biography of Descartes's contemporary, Thomas Hobbes. Though Malcolm's book will doubtless be no less scholarly, my guess is that his journalistic experience will help him to evoke rather more vividly the quarrelsome world in which Descartes could call Hobbes "extremely contemptible" one moment, yet be reconciled with him the next. How like our own academic scene, but, alas, how unlike it in the ferment of big ideas.

## Horse sense

THERE are lots of ways to die in the desert. Or at least, as Lucy Rees's account of her horseback journey across northern Arizona attests, to become horribly uncomfortable. Some three quarters of this terrain is either desert, national forest or barren, sparsely populated Indian reservation. Navajo, Apache, Hopi. Should anything go wrong, there is nobody much to help you. But, even in its sparseness, the landscape she traverses is just and beautiful: "the rock is soft and young, blooming with one colour and freshness of a ripe peach". And what is more, the soul is at home here. At least for those who travel, to borrow an ancient Hopi phrase, with the tops of their heads open. Rees and her partner, Rick, are clearly just such travellers. As the title of the book suggests, the physical journey which they undertake soon becomes a metaphor for a progress of a much more inward nature. Rees writes

■ THE MAZE: Through Hell to Hope  
By Lucy Rees  
Bantam Press, £12.99

ravishingly of man's relationship with the natural world, and in this particular wilderness its cleansing and healing powers are quick to take effect. As they journey further into the labyrinth, successive layers in their own relationship unfurl, gradually revealing beneath them, on a deeper level still, a story of loss and grief and final reconciliation. Rees's talents as a writer are literary rather than literary, and, in a physical sense, not much actually happens on the journey itself. But the mark of a good travel book is that it should be more than the sum of its parts. On one level *The Maze* is a travel book for horse lovers; but it is also, marvellously, a book about contemplation and the ability of some travellers to connect truly with the land.

KATIE HICKMAN



Made by the hand of the gods: the ruins at Machupicchu in Peru — do they provide evidence of a Golden Age of knowledge now long forgotten?

## The moving finger writes

GRAHAM Hancock believes in a Golden Age, a "First Time", when there were giants if not gods. The evidence is there for all to see — the New World sites at Machupicchu and Tiwanaco in Bolivia, the Mayan Pyramids of the Sun and Moon in Mexico — most dramatically the pyramids of Giza.

... and having writ, leaves us to puzzle over the remains of an age of gods and giants

■ FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS  
By Graham Hancock  
Heinemann, £16.99

Fast and furious come the questions: why, why again, above all how? Not content with a tidy "linear" view of history that has man emerging in stately wise, first learning about fire and then the wheel until we ourselves step gloriously upon the stage, he warns that we neglect pre-history at our peril. And if there are no books — or we have destroyed them on our way — read the signs, the fingerprints they left behind: the mysterious Nazca line drawings in Peru, only discovered this

century once man had invented the airplane; the map of Antarctica penned by Admiral Piri Reis in the 16th century whose accurate details of the continent beneath the ice had to await confirmation of seismic survey until 1949; the consummate skill with which the Great Pyramid was laid down, perfectly north-south, its dimensions comprising both  $\pi$  and a sure knowledge of the precession of the equinoxes (well before modern man admitted to knowing either).

These stones piled up as pyramids are older than anyone admits: they were never tombs in the Egyptian sense, for they were ever empty. (And what of these ocean-going ships, conveniently at anchor in the desert?) A footprint 13 acres square weighing 50 million tons and here another and again: examine their message, see their configuration. In truth, they make a replica of Orion's belt dropped into the sand at a particular moment in time. When? 10,450BC, we can establish that by procession (turn back to page 233). And the message in the sand? That would be telling; let's say a large number of readers are already finding it out. They will hugely enjoy their quest in 500 pages of inspired storytelling.

JOHN SKINNER

## Devil of a good fight

■ STRANGE HIGHWAYS  
By Dean Koontz  
Headline, £16.99

COAL Valley, Pennsylvania, the setting of *Strange Highways*, is a condemned village which sits astride a voracious mine fire. Explosions rumble, flames spurt through vents to the earth's surface and, any minute, the entire place is due to subside into the inferno beneath. It is a Satanist's idea of heaven, and there just happens to be one on the rampage. In 1975, Joey Shannon, off to college in his Mustang, paused at a fork in a country road. For reasons he cannot recall, he chose not to take the road through Coal Valley, but drove on, and 20 years of drunken, loveless failure and misery were the result. In 1995, plagued by hallucinations of a female corpse, he finds himself back at the same place, being offered the same choice and the chance to live his life again.

It is *Groundhog Day* meets *Twin Peaks*: suddenly Joey is back in his old Mustang in Coal Valley. There is a pair of blue eyes in a jam-jar in the dashboard, a helpmeet called Celeste bearing stigmata at the road side, and they are off in the fight against evil. Evil loses.

*Strange Highways* is just a short novel, and 12 other tales are included here. They all display the Koontz trademark: a combination of wild (if sometimes borrowed) imaginings with staunch belief. A mugger is swallowed whole by a stolen handbag; ectoplasm invading the minds of a town's people is overcome by the strong, pure thoughts of a schoolteacher. In, frankly, one of his poorer efforts, a marauding black pumpkin devours a family but spares the abused son. His characters are taken to the brink of the abyss, but always come back, spouting family values.

These are born-again books. Koontz has adapted the genre for Newt Gingrich's America: horror, yes, but happy horror.

GILL HORNBY

## MINETTE WALTERS

An atmosphere of tantalizing, overpowering menace... The tradition of the English whodunnit has passed into the safe hands — and dangerous imagination — of Minette Walters.

THE TIMES

## The Scold's Bridle

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## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

## First steps to my own shelf

THE stage of emerging from the school reading scheme into the world of what my five-year-old calls "shelf books" — to distinguish them from the ones in his school bag — is when a child can be teetering between enthusiasm and frustration. They should not be fobbed off with drab prose, but the vocabulary must match ability. Among the clutch of small storybook series aimed at this stage are some good ideas, though few as inspired as Dr Seuss's timeless *Cat in the Hat* books, and none cheap enough for a child to buy with pocket money. Gollancz is bringing out five new titles (£3.99 each) in the *Share-a-story* series by Pat Thomson. Each book is a dialogue between an adult and a child. The adult's words are on one page, the child's on the facing page, so that you take it in turns to read and create a conversation. Thomson finds ingenious variations on the theme and has top illustrators. But she and artist Faith Jacques should have done their sums before giving a present-day granny, aged about 60, a grey bun, knitting needles and an Edwardian childhood. Think about it, as Francis Fry, Private Eye would say.

Created by Sam McBratney, he is the hero of one of Collins' *Colourjays*, a new series of funny paperbacks at £3.99 each, which tempt the more reluctant beginners with a judicious use of speech bubbles and other come-ons. The authors include Michael Rosen and Sarah Garland. Collins's *Yellow Storybooks*, at the same level but nearer pocket-money price at £2.99, are where to find Vivian French and Guy Parker-Rees's *Morris*, an hilarious, bone-deep, striped cat whose attempts to catch mice without effort are not far removed from another striped cat. Gollancz's *Read-it-Yourself* series features Sophie, a rabbit at infants school who gets into the usual scrapes and sadnesses; losing her baby brother at a fête, making a best friend who moves house and so on. The language is not thrilling but it contains enough repetition to help increase confidence, and the wise little stories move well.

They are priced at £7.99 each and £3.99 in paperback. There are some excellent stories by quality authors lurking among the *Banana Books* from Heinemann (£3.99 each). I confess to a lump in my throat at Bel Mooney's shamelessly Dickensian story, *The Mouse with Many Rooms*, about a mouse whose flight from a cat turns a houseful of lonely bedsit dwellers into a big happy family at Christmas. Piccadilly Pips, which are the same price and reading level, also use good writers. This spring brings Jacqueline Wilson's *Jimmy Jolly* and Robert Swindell's *The Muckstups*, in which the tidy, healthy, Hebridean Frimlys clash with mix with the junk-strewn, chain-smoking, telly-watching Muckstups. The perfect antidote to early-reader books must be *The Magic Fountain* by HRR Princess Gloriana — the story behind the Book by Roger McGough (Bodley Head, £8.99), an outrageously sedulous tale of a celebrity author princess whose 34 word blockbuster may have been short on talent but a least nettled a prince. I hope McGough's lawyers are standing by.

SARAH JOHNSON

## The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK				Last No. week	
1	THE SEVENTH SCROLL Wilbur Smith (Macmillan)	£15.99	1	4	
2	OUR GAME John le Carré (Hodder & Stoughton)	£16.99	0	1	
3	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS Graham Hancock (Heinemann)	£16.99	2	4	
4	THE LAST HUMAN Grant Haylor (Viking)	£14.99	0	1	
5	TAKE IT LIKE A MAN Boy George (Sidgwick & Jackson)	£14.99	0	1	
6	SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£16.99	3	14	
7	AS IT SEEMED TO ME John Cole (Weidenfeld)	£20	7	2	
8	THE BEST OF FRIENDS Joanna Trollope (Bloomsbury)	£14.99	6	6	
9	THE OXFORD BOOK OF HUMOROUS QUOTATIONS ed. Ned Sherrin (O.U.P.)	£16.99	0	1	
10	HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Gollancz)	£14.99	4	5	
PAPERBACK					
1	THE CHAMBER John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	1	5	
2	ORIGINAL SIN P. D. James (Faber)	£8.99	5	3	
3	SOUL MUSIC Terry Pratchett (Corgi)	£4.99	0	1	
4	A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME Stephen Hawking (Bantam)	£6.99	2	5	
5	LETTERS FROM LONDON 1990-1995 Julian Barnes (Picador)	£6.99	8	3	
6	SHADOW OF A DARK QUEEN Raymond Feist (HarperCollins)	£4.99	17	2	
7	TOM CLANCY'S OF CENTRE Tom Clancy (HarperCollins)	£4.99	4	5	
8	EVERYTHING CLIVE Barker (HarperCollins)	£5.99	6	2	
9	THE X FILES Charles Grant (HarperCollins)	£4.99	3	3	
10	ACID HOUSE Irvine Welsh (Vintage)	£5.99	9	2	
11	THE HIPPOPOTAMUS Stephen Fry (Arrow)	£5.99	10	8	
12	DIAMOND MASK J. May (Pan Macmillan)	£4.99	0	1	
13	NOTHING LASTS FOR EVER Sidney Sheldon (HarperCollins)	£4.99	12	5	
14	PLAYFAIR CRICKET ANNUAL 1995 Bill Frindall (Headline)	£4.50	7	3	
15	FOLDING STAR Alan Hollinghurst (Vintage)	£5.99	11	3	
16	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW Peter Høeg (Flamingo)	£5.99	13	26	
17	A CHANGE OF CLIMATE Hilary Mantel (Penguin)	£5.99	0	6	
18	KOLYMSKY HEIGHTS Lionel Davidson (Mandarin)	£4.99	15	5	
19	THE FIST OF GOD Frederick Forsyth (Corgi)	£5.99	18	13	
20	MARABOU STORK NIGHTMARES Irvine Welsh (Random House)	£9.99	19	2	

Any book from this list can be ordered from  
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هكذا من الأصل



# BOOKS

15

## NEW IN PAPERBACK



Janet Cohen: putting her wide experience to use

### CHILDREN OF A HARSH WINTER

By Janet Cohen  
Penguin, £5.99

"CHILDREN of a harsh winter grow up strong": that Russian proverb becomes the underlying thesis of this book. Cohen traces the interlinked lives of three characters, each abandoned, betrayed or abused in childhood. Jennifer Redwood, sexually molested as a teenager, grows up to become the proprietress of a fashionable restaurant chain. David Banner, attractive and arrogant, finds himself struggling against looming penury after his parents' separation. He goes on to a political career. Paul Seles, an orphaned Hungarian immigrant, severely battered by the man who adopts him,

later grows rich as an international arms dealer. Yet despite the veneers of success, the scars of childhood lie just beneath the surface, threatening at all times to reopen and destroy all that has been gained.

Cohen, a director of the merchant bank Charterhouse, a governor of the BBC, a founder of Café Pelican, and heavily involved in educational issues, brings her wide experience to bear on this novel. Yet the result is middle-brow pulp fiction. It is the strong narrative line, rather than any genuine insight, which carries the reader forward. Perhaps Cohen should return to crime stories, where a carefully crafted plot and intelligent solutions are exactly the strengths required.

### LOST CHILDREN

By Maggie Gee  
Flamingo, £5

HAVING devoted the past 20 years to her husband, her son and her adored 16-year-old daughter, Alma has reached 50 without giving much thought to who she is and why. Then Zoë, the golden child, runs away from her comfortable, suburban home and disappears onto the streets of London. Devastated, Alma rejects her uncomprehending husband and son, takes a mindless job that will leave her time to think, and starts digging in the past for clues to her own nature and why her daughter had to escape. A compelling exploration of the ways we meaningfully damage our children.



1907, this English translation, which admirably captures the eroticism of the prose, only appeared in 1974.

### HENRY'S WOOD

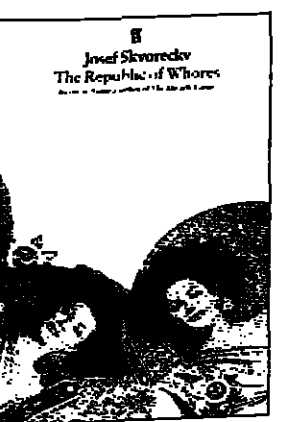
By Arthur Jacobs  
Methuen, £12.99

AS THIS meticulous biography makes clear, Sir Henry Wood's influence on British musical life goes far beyond the Promenade Concerts which bear his name and which celebrate their centenary this year. A champion of new music, between 1889 and 1944 Wood conducted the British premieres of some 716 works by 356 composers, among them Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and four symphonies by Mahler. In the process, he did more than anyone to raise orchestral playing to the levels of virtuosity that we take for granted now.

### JOHN STEINBECK. A Biography

By Jay Parini  
Minerva, £6.99

A NOVELIST himself, Parini approaches Steinbeck's life with a real understanding of the obsessive determination required of a great writer. The resulting book is learned, sympathetic and highly readable. Steinbeck's experiences among the fruit farms and coastal canneries of his beloved California are compared with the plots and characters of his novels to show how his best writing reflects his own life. Steinbeck emerges as a dedicated, tormented, compassionate and yet somewhat innocent man, easily wounded by his critics, and curiously unsatisfied with his work.



### THE REPUBLIC OF WHORES

By Josef Skvorecky  
Faber, £6.99

THIS Cold War satire from a Czech author appears in English 30 years after the Russians first squashed its publication at home. Leaning heavily on Jaroslav Hasek's masterpiece, *The Good Soldier Schweik*, it tells the picaresque tale of Danny Smuricky's final weeks as a conscript in the Seventh Tank Battalion. The narrative takes the form of a series of loosely linked stories which turn on frustrated sexual desire, and the passive resistance of Czech soldiers to their Communist overlords. The humour is still poignant today, but the political message comes, for us, a little late.

### THE STORM-BRINGER

By Paul Sayer  
Sceptre, £5.99

A COUPLE move from a small Moorland village to live in York. It soon becomes clear that they have a secret, clear that they are trying to do something they are not supposed to. The husband in particular is anxious and abject. They decide to take a lodger — a crude-seeming young man whose raw energy disturbs the depressive pattern of their lives, forcing them eventually to face the terrible memory they have been avoiding. A disturbing story of grief and denial, built gradually through Sayer's writing has a kind of baldness which makes it uncomfortable to read, but also a determined honesty which is compelling.

Contributors: Rachel Campbell-Johnson, Nicka Household, Jason Cowley, Ian Brunkill, Alexander Ross, Giles Coren, Hazel Leslie

Penny Perick on a witty tale of adulterous love with overtones of Fay Weldon

## Lock up your men

IMPERFECT love would have been a more apt title for this sour, thoughtful novel, since every bond of affection that exists between its characters is marred and clouded. Even a rather appealing baby cannot count on unconditional mother love. "Frankly, Edward leaves me very unbound and I feel exhausted," his mother unabashedly admits, wheeling the nanny to put in some extra hours.

The protagonist is Pru Valour, a subtly beautiful forty-something, married to an older man, Max, whose first wife, now dead, had been faceless and destructive. Max, aching for a quiet family life,

has imprisoned Pru in the prickliest of gilded cages: a country house near Winchester, where she can look after him and their daughter, Jane, arrange flowers in church and do a bit of inoffensive part-time work: she puts in few afternoons a week in a bookshop.

She is researching a biography of Joan of Arc, although she has made no effort to find a publisher for it.

Pru is far from unhappy, even though Max is grumpy and exacting and has a tendency to go off and ominously polish his guns when crossed. But then Violet, Max's daughter by his first marriage,

### PERFECT LOVE

By Elizabeth Buchan  
Macmillan, £14.99

comes back to England with a husband, Jamie, and the aforementioned baby, and Pru's life of droopy domesticity is considerably livened up.

Jamie falls in love with her and after squirming a bit Pru takes to meeting him for adulterous afternoons in a London hotel. Even worse, she signs off the flower rota.

These lovers deserve some sympathy: Pru has been systematically crushed by a loving but overbearing husband; Jamie is, when not indulging in hunchtime liaisons, doing

his best to be a New Man, changing nappies and so on. Yet, after a while, Pru's mousy anguish starts to annoy and one's sympathies shoot off towards the thoroughly undeserving Violet, a woman who was determined to have it all and has now realised, horribly, that a baby was the part that she did not really need.

Violet is as recognisable as any of the similarly harassed heroines of Fay Weldon's early novels — desperately trying to juggle love and work while walking around in a daze of tiredness. Also rather appealingly Weldonian is the pushy authorial voice, ex-



Buchan: unintended moral

plaining the characters' actions.

The moral of this witty and convincing story may not be quite what the author intended but is clear, nonetheless: beware the careerless woman, for she alone has enough time on her hands to borrow your husband.

## Forged in a fire of race

Tunku Varadarajan asks why racial conflict begets great writing

SOCIETIES with a history of racial or communal conflict invariably produce fine storytellers and compelling literature. America is an example. So is modern India. Yet no place has had such an acrid history of racial division, nor such consistently self-assured writers, as South Africa.

Paton, Gordimer, J.M. Coetzee, Breytenbach and Brink are all on our shelves. But there are other, younger voices now, which clamour to be heard. Mark Behr is one, and *The Smell of Apples*, his first novel, is as deftly spun as it is disconcerting.

His limpid tale is set in two distinct periods of South African history — 1973 and 1988 — and describes the life of Marmus, the son of an Afrikaner general. Apartheid is nowhere mentioned by name in the text, but it is present on almost every page. Behr's characters tell us how it quickened, deadened or shaped the lives and instincts of all South Africans.

Take the case of Little Neville, the son of the family's Coloured maid, and just a year younger than Marmus. He is caught stealing coal from a railway yard and is burnt in front of an open furnace by the men who caught him. "Were they really whites, mum?" Marmus asks, in disbelief as much as in pain. "But why did whites do it?"

### THE SMELL OF APPLES

By Mark Behr  
Abacus, £8.99

### CHEAP LIVES

By Antony Sher  
Little, Brown, £15.99

Marmus does not find an answer. When he is old enough to know, he is consumed by the war in Angola, whose sordid conduct is in contrast with the lift of his childhood.

There is no lift in the lives of Adrian and Yusuf, the two men whose letters to each other comprise the text of Antony Sher's *Cheap Lives*. In this forceful and inventive book, Sher conducts a scalpel-sharp inquiry into the nature of fantasy, morality and revenge.

Adrian, a pretty, white tour guide, strikes up a correspondence with the imprisoned Yusuf, a brutal and simian Coloured serial murderer, who had tried to kill him after a drug-fuelled sexual encounter in a hotel. Why did Yusuf do it? Why did he kill 50 others? Did he really kill them? And what is the true motive behind Adrian's letter-writing?

Sher pulls his readers, inexorably, into a vortex of raw questions. And his tortured Adrian, like Behr's Marmus, struggles always to find coherent answers.



Physical graffiti from *The Lady is a Tramp* — Portraits of Catherine Bailey by David Bailey and Fay Weldon (Thames & Hudson, £39.95), "woman in her infinite variety"

## A Sharpe blade for El Castrador

WITH a new series of Sharpe's exploits in the Napoleonic Wars roaring across our television screens in a flurry of blood, sweat and heaving bosoms, it is prime time for a new novel.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Bernard Cornwell has produced *Sharpe's Battle* and dedicated it to Sean Bean, who has done for his hero what Sir Alec Guinness did for John Le Carré's George Smiley. Bean has brought risen-through-ranks lad Dick Sharpe so successfully to life that I imagine Cornwell himself is tempted to imagine him speaking the lines as he writes them.

In his latest escapade, Sharpe's skirmishers are still on the loose fringes of Wellington's war in Spain,

### SHARPE'S BATTLE

By Bernard Cornwell  
HarperCollins, £14.99

with the unconventional captain's reputation for having captured an enemy standard (see *Sharpe's Eagle*) now gone before him. As a somewhat double-edged tribute to his toughness and skill as an officer, Sharpe is handed control of the Real Compania Irlandesa, an over-sized, under-trained regiment of Irish exiles attached to the Spanish royal court.

This is fertile ground for Cornwell to play upon the difficult historical relationship between England and Ireland, though I fear the analysis that slips through between the lines tends

towards the simplistic. But *Sharpe's Battle* is really a tale of the bitter feud that evolves between our hero and a French brigadier by the name of Loup, whose men suitably affect wolf-grey battle dress and military mores reminiscent of the animal itself.

This is about the nasty side of war, about the conflict that gave the world the word "guerrilla" for the "little war" fought by irregulars that would challenge the whole nature of traditional set-piece clashes between professionals. In this birth of modern warfare, rape, pillage, hostage-taking and revenge murders of civilians join the arsenal of weaponry. The terror of the French is a Spanish peasant guerrillero known for reasons too

painfully obvious as El Castrador. In an escalating balance of terror, Loup imitates his trade-mark mutilation and even Sharpe is provoked to risk his career by violating the rules of war.

What makes these books such a successful formula is the blend of action, well-researched historical setting, colourful characterisation and a juicy sub-plot. In this case the scarlet lady is a cross-dressing treasonous Spanish aristocrat with a dash of Lola Montez and a penchant for collecting a uniform from each of her lovers. Will she add one of Sharpe's green jackets to her wardrobe? Could I betray a secret like that?

PETER MILLAR

## The lost boys on a midnight odyssey

### WONDER BOYS

By Michael Chabon  
Fourth Estate, £15.99

### TIM AND PETE

By James Robert Baker  
Ringpull Press, £8.98

NOT another novel, you might be forgiven for thinking, about writers and writing. Not another tale of late nights and substance abuse and wasted lives as one more narrator toils at the typewriter of Doom, condemned to his novel, condemned to tell us about it in another.

But you would be wrong. Michael Chabon's *Wonder Boys* is a funny, ironic novel about those afflicted with the "midnight disease" of writing, about the drive to compose which goes beyond envy or good sense, about Marilyn Monroe's jacket and the corpse of a mad, blind dog called Doctor Dee.

Grady Tripp is in a mess. His novels used to get the kind of great press that Chabon's *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* got when it appeared in 1988. But that was seven years ago, and Grady's new novel, the eponymous *Wonder Boys*, is 2,611 pages long and nowhere near finished. His wife is about to leave him and his teaching career is up the creek. What is worse, Terry Crabtree, his "Agent of Chaos", is coming to Pittsburgh, expecting to see a final draft.

The dog belonged to his girlfriend and the jacket to her husband, and they are only two of the engines that power this big novel along at its galloping pace; others include a steady supply of marijuana and the gothic tales of the almost mythical August van Zorn. But behind all this is Grady's narrative voice, shambling and endearing, a hopeless man who finds hope at last. Ultimately, its postmodern narrative convolutions take a back seat to the calamitous adventures of Grady, Crabtree and James Leer, Grady's talented if peculiar pupil. But the novel's quiet, moving resolution is proof that Chabon is more than an entertaining trickster.

*Tim and Pete*, James Robert Baker's fourth novel, pelts headlong through the landscape of urban America. But Baker sets us down in riot-devastated Los Angeles, where midnight adventures can take a deadly turn. *Tim and Pete* is a love story and a comedy, but it is dark at the edges, and fuelled by a vision of a new political order.

Tim's problem is simple enough: he is stranded in Laguna Beach one night and needs to get home. He figures he might get a lift from his ex, Pete — but things are not so simple. Their midnight ride is an hilarious catalogue of misadventure that finally puts them at the mercy of a gay anarchist group with the firepower to blow the New Right off the map.

Baker's style is breezy and flip, but what is remarkable about his writing is that, threaded effortlessly through the speculations on the Hardy Boys' sex life, is a very serious novel indeed. It is a howl of rage in a world where everyone has a friend or a lover who has died. But love survives against the most terrible odds: and that is no mean achievement.

ERICA WAGNER

Now you can have the River Café in your own kitchen

## Italian on the tongue

THIS is a seminal book from a seminal restaurant. Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers have changed the way we eat. Before they came on to the scene in 1987, smart food was French and anything Italian was found in greasy spoons masquerading as jolly trysts with waiters winkingly wielding oversized pepperpots and (tinned) pomodoro with everything. The River Café changed that entirely. Rogers and Gray came up with a menu that was fresh, simple and bristling with flavour and robust authenticity.

The River Café, which in a manner of speaking had started out life as a works canteen for Richard Rogers Associates, became the most imitated restaurant. And so, filtered through the medium of lifestyle sections and colour supplements, the age of balsamic vinegar and bruschetta was born. Before, few people had heard of polenta: now you can get it at Sainsbury's.

### THE RIVER CAFE COOK BOOK

By Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers  
Ebury Press, £25

book because you want to cook well? Because you want to cook Michelin stars? Forget it. Save your money. Go and buy a saucepan. This book, however, is worth any number of



Gray and Rogers: changed our taste-buds for ever

kitchen gadgets, with recipes as simple as they are inspirational — and they work.

The food in the restaurant relies upon the best, freshest ingredients, often flown in daily, if necessary — from Italy. You need to be unflinching with your shopping, but then you can cook from this book with ease. It is just a delight, beautiful to look at, glorious to read. Spaghettili al limone (most lemons are sold underripe here, so you may have to use fewer than directed) is fast, delectable, fragrant. You can romp through a recipe for summer minestrone so unmissy it is positively relaxing to cook. Likewise the chocolate truffle cake (fried chocolate, whipped cream: just those two ingredients), which is an effortless, astonishing triumph.

I could cook my way through this book for ever and not get bored. Every recipe is seductively doable. This is more than just Italian without tears: it is the must-have manual for a stress-free, chic and successful life in the kitchen.

NIGELLA LAWSON

## Prairie myths

IF these two novels share anything apart from both being set in an America of the past, it is their preoccupation with America's mythic qualities. There is a common interest in landscape and in the response of character to inhabiting this enormous space.

*The Last Ride* is an 1880s Western. When a haggard old Indian dismounts at the Baldwin's homestead, Old West hospitality dictates that Brake Baldwin invite him to stay, but Brake's wife Maggie is disturbed by the visitor. For a start, he is not Indian at all, but Maggie's father, Samuel Jones, who ran off with a squaw. Maggie cannot accept his back without rancour, but when Brake is injured in an Indian attack and their daughter is abducted, there is only one way forward — Maggie and Jones ride together again.

But there is no tension: you know how the book is going to end before you are a third of the way through, although there is some insightful probing of the idea of family and effective emotional dynamics. Thomas Eidson is good at evoking sympathy even for

### THE LAST RIDE

By Thomas Eidson  
Michael Joseph, £12.99

### THE BOTTICELLI ANGEL

By Harry Cauley  
Michael Joseph, £12.99

the most stubborn characters. Harry Cauley, on the other hand, rarely engages the emotions in *The Botticelli Angel*. John, the narrator, calls at an isolated house after his car breaks down. The owner believes John to be an angel who has come to take Michael, her son, also an angel — he has the vestigial wings to prove it — away to heaven. John sees Michael as his passport to paradise: all he has to do is get him across America to Hollywood. Easier said than done back in the 1920s, when America was a lot bigger.

However, in terms of expanding the great myth of America, Eidson and Cauley can only be the warm-up guys for Steve Erickson (*Arc 4*) and Cris Mazza (*Revelation Countdown*). Go for the Eidson, pass on the Cauley.

NICHOLAS ROYLE

## THURSDAY

Lord Skidelsky on a Tory manifesto by John Patten; Colin Welch on Richard Neville and Oz; Anne Tyler's *Ladder of Years*; plus David Ekserdjian on Renaissance man Vasari

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Twenty-five years on, a founder of the Fan Circle is preparing to celebrate these relics of high society



Helene Alexander opens a European feather fan with mother-of-pearl sticks, c. 1910

## When there was a fan for all seasons

Two terraced houses in Greenwich, south London — even two handsome, 18th-century ones — may not seem an obvious setting for a collection of international glamour. But behind the reticent doors of the Fan Museum are rooms full of surprises, where delicate treasures of ivory, silk, tortoiseshell and paper are spread out like brilliant butterflies. These fragile relics of long-lost high society have been collected by Helene Alexander, the museum's founder, whose career has more than a touch of romance itself.

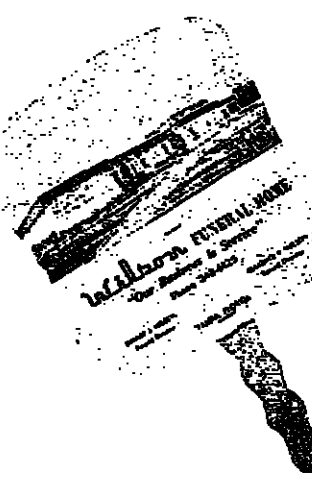
Some of her earliest memories are of her grandmother's social life in 1950s Egypt: "She had been a lady-in-waiting at the Egyptian court of King Farouk and ordered all her clothes from Paris," Mrs Alexander says. "She had fans made for her to match her costumes and would sometimes buy antique fans as well." The inheritance of some 20 fans from her grandmother's collection encouraged an interest in the subject which Mrs Alexander began to develop while she was a student in England. By then, the Suez crisis had cut her off from her family. "Suddenly I had no money. Because I was studying for an

art-history degree during the day, every night the question was whether I or the cat would have dinner.

"But in those days you could still buy 18th-century fans in the Portobello Road for half a crown, so I was able to start collecting," she says. Mrs Alexander

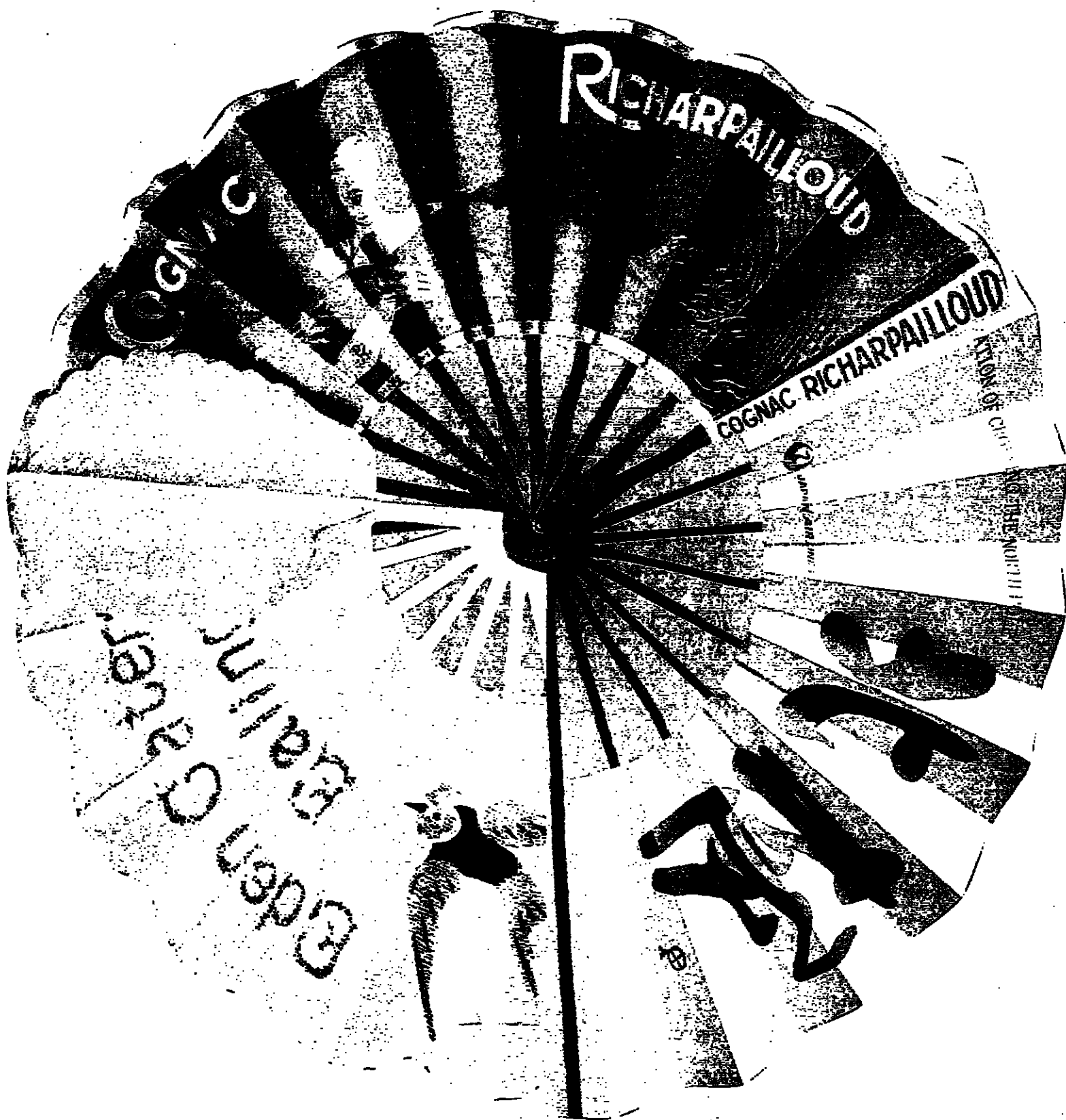
Her background in art history has led Mrs Alexander to study the sources of the paintings and prints used in the designs on 18th-century fans, but her broad interests include such important subjects as the relationship of fans to costume and the social settings in which fans were used. Her collection is equally wide-ranging: exquisite 18th-century fans of carved ivory and painted silk sit next to novelties such as telescopic Victorian fans or those designed to contain an ear trumpet. There is a strong representation of European fans of the 1820s and 1830s — what Mrs Alexander calls the *époque romantique* — but then, she explains, that is because they were cheap in the 1960s, when she began to collect in earnest.

From the beginning, her acquisitions were for a potential museum, as she deliberately amassed fans in as many materials as possible. "I became particularly interested in the way cheap materials started to be used as a substitute for expensive ones: bone instead of ivory, horn instead of tortoiseshell. Collectors in the 1960s weren't so interested in these, so I was able to buy many examples." Trips to sales at Christie's



An American fixed fan, 1970s

exander attributes her passion for collecting to genetics — her father assembled a celebrated collection of Roman coins and one of her uncles collected objects d'art, especially Chinese jade — "but he wouldn't buy green jade, as he thought green was unlucky, so it was a fairly specialised collection".



Fans were often used for advertising: a 1920s English fan for a caterer; one for a French cognac (c. 1930); and a 1970s example for Japan Airlines

Today's kitsch is tomorrow's collectable. We even have plastic and lace fans in the museum

led to meetings with other collectors and, in 1970, Mrs Alexander became the founder president of the Fan Circle International, the principal society for collectors, which has major branches in Britain, America, France and Italy. When she spoke, she was planning an exhibition to mark the society's 25th anniversary, which will include some spectacular rarities lent by private collectors.

It was soon after becoming president of the Fan Circle that Mrs Alexander had the idea of creating the world's first fan museum. The acquisition of the two 18th-century houses in Greenwich was made possible by the charitable foundation created from the proceeds of the sale of her father's coin collection. A great deal of work had to be done to the buildings to convert them into the museum, which opened in 1991. A visit is undoubtedly the

best way to begin learning about fans, especially because an entire gallery is devoted to explaining the materials and techniques of fan manufacture. Mrs Alexander also advises enthusiasts to study the collections formed by turn-of-the-century society ladies, such as the Rothschild fans on show at Waddesdon Manor or the Messel collection which can be seen at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

Antique fans can still be bought at auctions, notably at Christie's in South Kensington and Sotheby's in Billingshurst. Specialist dealers in London include the Oriental Art Gallery, for top-quality oriental fans.

But are there any unexploited areas for new collectors to explore? "Remember, today's

rarities now fetch thousands of pounds for a printed fan, for instance, is absurd — you may think it is unique, but another example is bound to come along. You can still

acquire a really interesting collection without ever paying sums like that."

However, many private collectors will be heading for the next sale of fans at Christie's South Kensington, on May 31, where some of the estimates are in the thousands — £25,000 for a Fabergé fan, for example, and £10,000 for a very rare English 18th-century fan which incorporates a watch in its pivot.

But there are more modest lots for £100 or less, which include several of the 19th and 20th-century advertising fans mentioned by Mrs Alexander.

And as Susan Mayor, Christie's fan expert, points out, it is still possible to buy 18th-century fans in less than perfect condition for a little under £100.

To retain fans in good condition, some simple rules need to be followed: "Do not frame them and hang them on the wall," Mrs Alexander says. "Keep them closed, in their own boxes if possible, or wrapped in acid-free paper, in a stable environment."

"Be careful about replacing old repairs — many collectors will value details such as silver mounts covering cracked ivory sticks, for example, as they are an important part of the object's history, and show how fans have been loved and valued in the past by the women they adorned."

MICHAEL HALL  
The author is the architectural editor of Country Life.

### THE TIMES/NPI

## PASSPORT TO HISTORIC HOUSES SPECIAL EVENTS

From high above Fal Estuary at Pendennis Castle, Falmouth, Cornwall, at noon on Saturday, June 3, you can watch the start of the 'Azores and Back' boat race. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the race features over seventy competitors.

PENDENNIS CASTLE is a testament to the quality of coastal defences erected by Henry VIII. The well preserved granite gun fort and outer ramparts with great angled bastions defended against invasion from the sea, but it was captured from the land after a long siege during the Civil War.

Admission: adults £2.20; children free; OAPs £1.70.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered a third-off the admission price.

Details: 01326 316594

Pendennis Castle, Cornwall, view from sea



NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN  
SUPPORTED BY THE TIMES

KIRBY MUXLOE CASTLE, Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, a picturesque, moated, brick-built castle begun in 1480, hosts the English Civil War Society's re-enactment of the 'Twilight of the King's Army' portraying Royalist Infantry in the Naesby Campaign, 1645, from noon on Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11.

On June 14, 1645 Charles I's Oxford army bravely fought its last battle at Naesby, outnumbered and overwhelmed by Parliament's forces. See the Demi-Culverin cannon, displays of drill and battle tactics performed by pikemen and musketeers of the Marquis of Winchester's Regiment; visit an authentic encampment and experience campaign life during those fateful days.

Admission: adults £3.00; children £1.50; OAPs £2.25.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered a third-off the admission price.

Details: 01926 52078

DEAL CASTLE, Deal, Kent, is the venue for 'A Tudor Murder Mystery' from noon on Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11. Try to solve the mystery as the 16th century garrison hunt for a murderer in their midst. Only the victim knew his or her identity, so everyone will be seeking the truth... who is the guilty party?

Admission: adults £3.00; children £1.50; OAPs £2.25. Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered a third-off the admission price.

Details: 01304 372762

Over the summer months the NPI Treasures of Britain Campaign will offer Times/NPI Passport holders the opportunity to visit many of Britain's most beautiful historic properties at special rates.

To launch this magnificent celebration of Britain's heritage, English Heritage is extending its special 'kids go free' weekend of June 3/4 to give Passport holders free entry to all its properties. All you need to do to take advantage of the special offers and concessions is to show your Passport Card.

The NPI Treasures of Britain Campaign, sponsored by pensions specialist NPI, in association with The Times, aims to widen interest in the preservation of Britain's heritage with specific reference to Britain's historic properties.



Clark Gable on a *Gone With The Wind* fan

### Fan collecting fact box

- The Fan Museum is at 12 Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 (0181-858 7879). Opening hours: Tues-Sat 11am-4.30pm; Sun noon-4.30pm.
- The best introduction to Fans by Helene Alexander (Shire Publications, £2.25). See also *The Collector's Guide to Fans* by Susan Mayor which will be published this month by Studio Editions (£4.95).
- For more information about the Fan Circle International, telephone Susan Mayor on 0171-321 3211. The exhibition to mark the Fan Circle's 25th anniversary will be held at the Fan Museum from May 16 to October 2.
- For information about sales at Christie's South Kensington call 0171-839 9060. The Oriental Art Gallery is at 4 Davies Street, London W1 (0171-499 7009).
- Public collections include those at two National Trust houses, Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire (01296 652252) and Ickworth House in Suffolk (01284 733270), as well as the Messel fans at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge (01223 332900). Royal fans are shown at Frogmore House, in the grounds of Windsor Castle, Berkshire (01753 866288) and the important collection assembled in the 19th century by Lady Charlotte Schreiber can be seen by appointment at the British Museum (0171-636 1555).

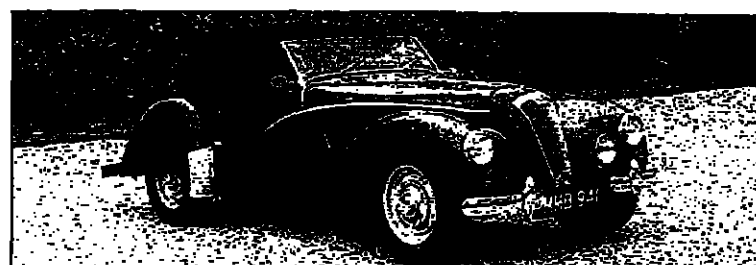


Vivien Leigh on the same 50th anniversary fan

□ Lord Montagu is selling the first veteran car he acquired 42 years ago for his motor museum in Beaulieu. Christie's hopes the 1906 Renault 20/30 HP limousine will fetch between £35,000 and £45,000 at today's classic car sale in the grounds of Beaulieu. Also on offer is a 1950 Lea Francis sports car (pictured), estimated at £14,000 to £16,000.

□ Also today, Phillips Chester is offering antique metalwork, treen and bygones found in the attic of a pre-war semi in Manchester. The 200 to 300 candlesticks, weighing scales and tea caddies were owned by the late Derrick Bradbury, co-founder and chairman of the National Horsebrass Society and treasurer of the Pewter Society. Prices range from a few pounds to thousands.

□ Saffron Walden Auctions' 'Rock and Roll years' sale tomorrow includes a coat John Lennon wore during his Quarrymen days at £1,000



Lea Francis 2.5 litre sports car, from 1950, on sale at Beaulieu today

to £1,500, as well as some 50 slot machines for £100 to £600 each.

**SALEROOM**

□ Relive the Battle of Britain in an Irvin jacket as worn by allied airmen, on offer for £200 to £400 at Onslow's sale of aeronautical items at Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, also tomorrow. A selection of propellers from famous aircraft, such

as the 1914-18 British SESEA fighter, are for sale from £500 to £600 each.

□ Chess fanatics are in for a treat at Phillips in London (0171-429 9060); Phillips North West, 150 Chardilton Road, Chester, Cheshire (01244 319336); Saffron Walden Auctions, 1 Market Street, Saffron Walden (01799 513281).

for an East India Company set carved from ivory.

□ Among a wide variety of furniture and collectables at the Bristol Auction Rooms sale on Tuesday are three plates containing circus images, based on the paintings of Laura Knight (£300 to £500 each) and a Wurliitzer model 1100 jukebox dating from the 1940s (£4,000 to £5,000).

### SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

Christie's classic car sale, Palace House, Beaulieu, Hampshire (for information 0171-639 9060); Bristol Auction Rooms, St John's Place, Aspley Road, Clifton, Bristol (0117-973 7201); Onslow's, the Grand Shute, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (for information 0171-371 0505); Phillips London, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-429 9060); Phillips North West, 150 Chardilton Road, Chester, Cheshire (01244 319336); Saffron Walden Auctions, 1 Market Street, Saffron Walden (01799 513281).







## AFRICA TRAVEL NEWS

□ WITH two million visitors a year, Zimbabwe is rapidly building a reputation as the most dependable tourist destination in Africa, writes Michael Hartnack.

The country retains an atmosphere of old world courtesy, cleanliness and efficiency which is reassuring for the European visitor. The crime rate is far lower than in neighbouring South Africa, and in most remote parts there are usually good doctors, pharmacies, private clinics and an airborne medical emergency service.

The main tourist draw remains the Victoria Falls, where the mile-wide Zambezi River vanishes in a perennial cloud of spray into a chasm in the earth's crust. The 400ft high falls are the focal point of a vast adventure playground of game reserves, safari areas and fishing camps. There is also white-water rafting, game viewing among the islands, and even bungee jumping and abseiling in the fall's gorges.

Above all, for the British visitor, Zimbabwe is cheap with an exchange rate of about 13 Zimbabwean dollars to the pound. This means that, for example, a prime steak costs about £3, while a night at a clean two-star hotel costs about £20 for a double room.

Just a short flight from Victoria Falls, the 200-mile long man-made Lake Kariba (see right) offers fishing, scuba diving and spectacular sunsets over watery horizons.

□ TOURISM in The Gambia was nearly brought to its knees after the Foreign Office warned British tourists not to go because of fighting, writes Harvey Elliott.

But the industry is recovering. The Gambia Hotel Association has generated enough business to fill one charter flight a week from Britain, operated by The Gambia Experience. Holidays start from £289 for B&B.

From next winter, there will be two wide-body Boeing 767 flights a week, operated on behalf of Thomson Holidays — one from Manchester by Airtours, one from Gatwick by The Gambia Experience — and shared flights from Cosmos, First Choice, Tropical Places and Sunworld. A typical four-star half-board seven-night holiday at the Sene Gambia Beach hotel, booked through Thomson, starts at £379, between October 20 and November 7.

## TRAVEL TIPS

□ Metak Holidays (0171-935 6961) has two-centre holidays combining a city break in Istanbul with a beachside stay in northern Cyprus. For 14 nights (five in Istanbul, nine in Kyrenia), prices start from £439 based on two sharing, including return flights from Heathrow with three-star hotel B&B in Istanbul and self-catering in Kyrenia.

□ Affordable Italy's brochure (01233 21617) covers Italian cities, coasts and lakes, plus Sardinia and Sicily. Prices start from £199 for a week's self-catering villa at Ravello.

□ Moswin Tours (0116-271 9922) has announced savings of up to £411 on its Rhine cruises between Amsterdam and Basel on a choice of dates in May, June, July, August and September. Seven nights now cost £599 per person, including return flights from Heathrow, Standard or regional airports, and full-board accommodation on the Rhine Princess. Moswin has also dropped its single-room supplements.

□ A mini-brochure detailing late availability deals to 50 sites in France, with reductions of up to £169 per party, has been issued by French Country Camping (01923 261311). A two-week holiday in July for two adults and two children at St Emilion, Dordogne or Malbuisson, Jura costs £142 each, inclusive of Stena Sealink crossing and tent accommodation. Other savings include £161 per party for arrivals between June 30 and July 3. All bookings must be received before the end of May and insurance arranged with the operator.

□ Cresta (0161-926 9999) is offering 20 per cent reductions on self-drive, self-catering holidays in 14 holiday villages in France, departing up to July 1. For example, £362 for seven nights at Cap Esterel, Provence for two adults and two children (reduction of £91) including return ferry for car and passengers.

CHRISTINE WHEELER

## AFRICA: Track lions and elephants on a safari deep into the Zimbabwean bush...



A line of elephants makes its way to the water's edge. "Don't worry, they are gentle creatures," the guide calmly informed the safari trip. "they will only charge if threatened"

## Big game, very few winners

Under no circumstances run away from a lion," our safari guide advised in solemn tones. "A frightened lion is a dangerous lion. Better to hold your ground, and slowly return to the Land Rover."

Such words of advice were easy for him. He was the only one with a rifle. The rest of us were armed only with our Nikons and designer sunglasses. Besides, none of us had the intention of getting that close to the big game.

We were on our first early-morning game drive, the day after arriving at the remote Fothergill Island on Zimbabwe's breathtakingly beautiful Lake Kariba. Still wiping the sleep from our eyes, we had set off in search of a pride of lions which were rumoured to have roamed on to the island from the adjacent Matusadona National Park.

Bumping along the bush road in our open-sided vehicle, the dew still fresh on the ground, we zipped between giant termite mounds and

ageing acacia trees with a recklessness that would have made even the most brazen car thief wince.

It is difficult to imagine a wilder place. Elephants thrashed their way through the bush. Herds of impalas snorted their alarms as we bounced our way through gully and stream. The water buffaloes stared menacingly as we approached the lake.

Emerging from the bush into a clearing, we stumbled on a pride of a dozen or more lions nonchalantly feasting on the rotting carcass of a dead hippopotamus. Our guide pulled up sharply, a few hundred yards from this time-less African spectacle. As we sat and stared, his advice now seemed redundant. None of us was going to get out and go walkabout.

After gazing on this scene for a few hours, it was not hard to see why the island is known as the Garden of Eden. Fothergill is not like other African safari resorts. When you stumble across a pride of lions or a herd of elephants, you do not find yourself surrounded by a dozen striped Combi vans full of people waving video cameras. You are, literally, on your own, with only your guide's rifle as insurance.

After lunch back at the safari lodge, we set off into the bush again, this time in search of elephants. Our guide's prodigious knowledge of Zimbabwe's flora and fauna rapidly earned him our respect. The knowledge that he can tell a charging bull elephant with a single shot, and identify every kind of bird, butterfly and insect, was reassuring and instructive.

For those in our party who had never been in the bush before, the guide's tracking skills seemed astonishing. Within minutes he had us poking about in heaps of elephant dung, testing the temperature, and trying to work out how much time had elapsed since the herd passed. After an hour or so following their great round footprints, we suddenly found ourselves encircled in a herd of about 40. It happened so quickly that we were caught off guard. While we tried to suppress our fear, our guide

calmly informed us that "elephants are gentle creatures. They will only charge if threatened."

One cow, clearly irritated by our presence, decided to inspect us at close range. She looked like a two-storey house ambulating through the bush as she wandered towards us. One loud snort and a flap of those huge ears was enough to ignite a silent panic. Catherine, the only woman in our group, turned away as if to pretend it was not happening, and was horrified to discover three more elephants approaching from the rear.

No one dared speak, but we all wanted to hightail it out of there. Unfortunately, the elephants were too close. Realising that we had released enough adrenaline for one day, our guide gently released the hand brake. We rolled down the hill backwards, shifted into first, made our exit through a clearing, and then roared with laughter.

On the way back to camp we stopped for a gin and tonic among the termite mounds, and watched the sun set. On the horizon, we could see a convoy of elephants making its way to the water's edge. Hyenas cackled in the distance, while the hippopotamuses romped in the lakeside mud. As the sun descended into Lake Kariba, the thought of never returning to London seemed almost irresistible.

The biblical imagery so often used to describe this remote corner of Africa is not out of place. Fothergill Island was created in the late 1950s when the colonial administrations of Northern and Southern Rhodesia (now Zambia and Zimbabwe) decided to flood the Zambezi valley to create a much-needed source of hydro-electric power.

As the Zambezi steadily swelled and drowned the valley, creating a lake 200km long and 40km wide, Rupert Fothergill gained immortality by launching Operation Noah, which relocated some 5,000 animals. The island, and the bush lodges which have sprung up to cater for game-watching, have been able to draw on that legacy.

Kariba's beauty is beyond question. It may be artificial in

origin, but nature lost no time reclaiming it. The rising waters left thousands of giant mahogany and teak trees all but submerged. Their petrified branches still pierce the tranquil surface, providing a resting place for the cormorants, sparrowhawks, kites, fish eagles and myriad other species which perch on the skeletal tree tops during the spectacular liquid sunsets.

Back at the safari lodge, we sat and swapped tales of terror with the other guests over bottles of Mukuyu Cabernet Merlot from the Ruzawi River valley.

This was only our first day. Zimbabwe's Hwange national park, an area the size of Switzerland, and the raw power of Victoria Falls, still flowing after 150 million years, awaited us.

But the exhilaration, undiluted fear, and memories of our first day on safari will remain with each of us to the grave.

MICHAEL DYNES



## Fact File

□ Michael Dynes travelled as a guest of British Airways Holidays (01293 611361).  
□ Until June 3, a nine-day safari starts from £1,391. This includes flights, accommodation (in Harare, Lake Kariba, Hwange and Victoria Falls), transfers, game drives, meals and a guide.

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## Life as a Cape crusader

Perhaps in our long obsession with the politics of South Africa we neglected the country's more simple virtues. They are striking to a first-time visitor. If you are fortunate enough to be going to the Rugby World Cup you will be greeted with a courtesy reminiscent of Britain several decades ago: you will be treated everywhere to the most generous of breakfasts; if you travel with a child you will be made especially welcome, and, regardless of which part of the country you visit, you will find scenery, flora and fauna, especially

features a wonderful array of proteas. The return road to Cape Town along the Atlantic side of the peninsula sweeps high round the vertiginous Chapman's Peak with views of the mighty Atlantic breakers and a likely soaking if you stop to admire. Like a lot of South Africa's coast this is excellent territory for surfers.

One of the charms of South Africa in this new flush of tourism is the frankness of the people. There is no attempt to flatter tourists into believing everything is easy. Our guide was happy to discuss the huge problems which will be posed by attempts properly to house those who live in the ugly squatter camps which scar the Cape, to poke fun at Cape Town's motorway gap, where a miscalculation has left a major road disappearing over a sheer drop by the waterfront or share concern about whether the place has enough hotels to cope with a tourist boom.

By British standards eating out in South Africa is not expensive, although the locals express horror at the prices. Cape Town's revitalised Victoria & Alfred waterfront offers a range of places, from burger-style cafés to classy restaurants, where you might be tempted by ostrich steak, in a conveniently small area. But if you want to try something characteristically local, go to Riemers restaurant in the Cape Sun hotel which specialises in the delicious spicy food typical of the Cape's large Malay community.

For the best in food and drink around the Cape, take a trip out to the winelands where, apart from the pleasure of tastings, many of the white-washed Cape Dutch-style estate houses offer excellent French-influenced food. Also worth a visit are the spacious university town of Stellenbosch, the more homely settlement of Franschhoek with its monument to the



Beautiful Table Mountain

bird life, to rival anything in Europe.

Add this to an advantageous exchange rate, a burgeoning wine industry and a largely empty but majestic coastline and it is not difficult to see why South Africa is the fastest growing tourist destination for Britons. The first flush of post-apartheid optimism may have worn off, but it has given way to a determination that recognises tourism as a vital ingredient in keeping the new show on the road.

I was invited on a trip by the South African Tourism Board designed, among other things, to demonstrate that Cape Town is a feasible weekend destination. It is, admittedly, a long and ambitious weekend but, because there is only one hour's time difference, one which can be undertaken without fear of jet lag. If you are blessed with the ability to sleep soundly in flight, then it is possible to get off the aircraft in the morning and go on a city tour before checking in to your hotel.

Table Mountain is one of those sights that lives up to its geography-textbook image. Even the table-cloth cloud was in place, spilling down towards the leafy suburbs. But on the next clear morning a trip to the top in the cable car proved the best way to view the city, which sprawls around its bays and spreads raggedly across the Cape Flats. It also afforded a close look at two eagles which emerged from a rock crevice to swoop majestically below us.

The Cape of Good Hope is a sight that comprehensively fails to match its textbook image. It is merely one among several rocky headlands at the tip of the Cape Peninsula. But the drive there is worth while. From what other major city could an hour-long drive include walking among penguins on a beach, locking the car against curious baboons and viewing whales at play in the bay? Seek out the Seaford or Black Marlin restaurants in Simonstown on the False Bay side of the peninsula and you might even be able to see the whales and penguins while eating fresh fish.

There are a few ostriches and zebra in the nature reserve at the Cape but its real glory is its vegetation, known as Fynbos, from which so many of our garden plants, pelargoniums, daisies and heathers are descended. It also



Flora to rival the Alps

Huguenots who brought their wine-making expertise here, and the agricultural centre of Paarl, with its more emphatic Afrikaner monument. At La Petite Ferme restaurant in wooded countryside near Franschhoek you'll have to book in advance; you can sit out on the terrace and gaze at a view to rival the Alps, except that the flowers are more vivid and the climate is milder.

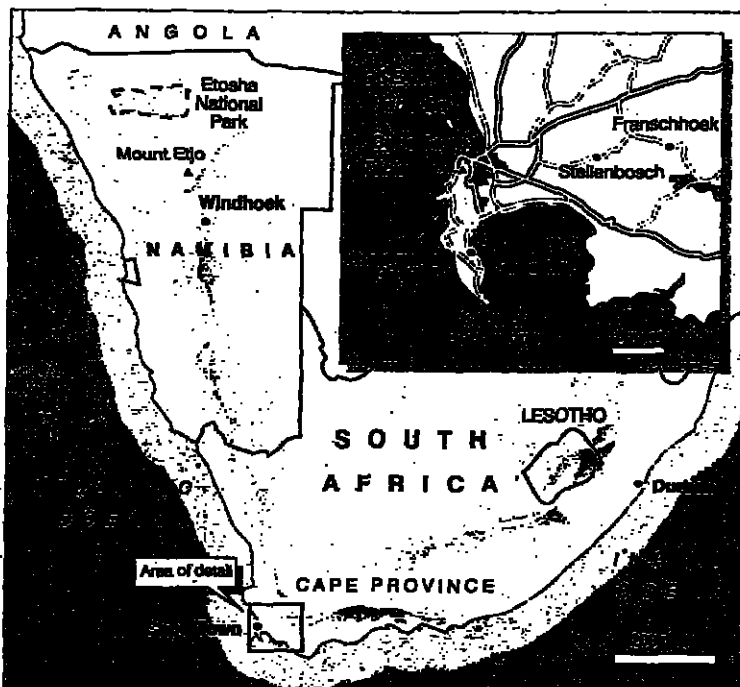
You could, of course, pack all this in to a weekend - we did. But it would leave you wanting more.

ALAN COPPS

### Fact File

- Alan Copps was also a guest of South African Airways and Camps Bay Hotel.
- South African Tourism Board (0181-944 8080). South African Airways (0171-312 5000). Fares from £665. Rooms at Camps Bay from £125 (0027-21 438 4444).

## The days of the Namib jackal



The Swakop River valley, with its eerie landscape, was one of the locations Stanley Kubrick chose to shoot his epic film, 2001: A Space Odyssey. Often referred to as "the valley of the moon", this rugged terrain is just one aspect of the world's oldest desert, the Namib.

This wilderness spreads along Namibia's Atlantic coastline and so, despite a painfully low annual rainfall, early morning mist gives life to its hardy species of trees and plants. On the Welwitschia Plain, we saw the Welwitschia mirabilis, which has baffled botanists worldwide. This bizarre plant is endemic to the Namib Desert and is believed to have a lifespan approaching 2,000 years. The "grandfather" of this genus, the Giant Welwitschia, is a 1,500-year-old sprawling monstrosity and one of the rarest plants on the face of the planet.

For the best in food and drink around the Cape, take a trip out to the winelands where, apart from the pleasure of tastings, many of the white-washed Cape Dutch-style estate houses offer excellent French-influenced food. Also worth a visit are the spacious university town of Stellenbosch, the more homely settlement of Franschhoek with its monument to the

**'We caught glimpses of ostrich, oryx, springbok, even chacma baboon'**

Journeying through the desert on our way to Swakopmund, we also caught glimpses of the Namib Desert's wildlife: jackal, ostrich, Hartmann's mountain zebra, oryx, springbok, even chacma baboon. The wild baboons represent the only member of the simian group in Namibia and are considered vermin in the townships.

Swakopmund, Namibia's premier beach resort, is a charming town, its brightly painted turn-of-the-century buildings a relic of German rule. It is a haven for art collectors, with numerous galleries selling works by local artists of repute, such as Galloway and Schwanecke.

For all things African, browse in Peter's Antiques in the heart of Swakopmund. Prices are reasonable and you'll find that the Namibian dollar will go a long way. (South African rand is still accepted tender and is of equal value.) Eating out is generally an inexpensive pleasure.

Cape Cross lies to the north of Swakopmund and is famous for its seal reserve with up to 100,000 Cape fur seals basking on the rocks and beaches. The sight is impressive, although it does come with a smell

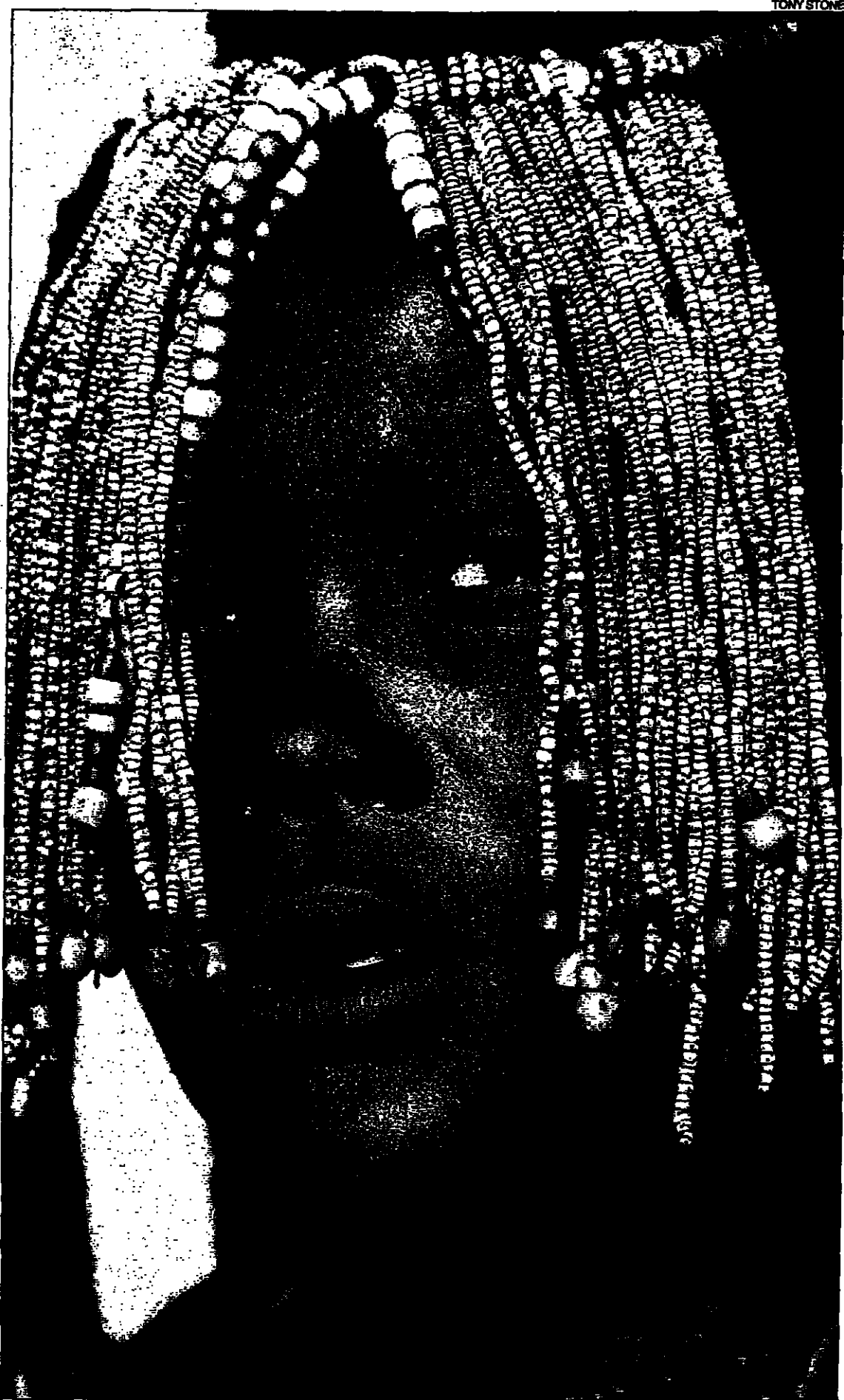
that is guaranteed to challenge any nasal passage.

Namibia's main draw is the Etosha National Park, one of the largest national parks on the African continent. Covering some 23,000 square kilometres of desert, savannah and woodlands, Etosha is teeming with wildlife (114 species of mammal) as well as rich birdlife.

As our Volkswagen microbus crawled through the park, we spotted giraffe, zebras, black-faced impala (endemic to Namibia), wildebeest, wart hog and black-backed jackal. We also saw our fair share of elephant and lion. Our guide, Peter Kovacs, helped to identify some of the less familiar species of antelope: dik-dik, kudu, steenbok and hartebeest. "There are nine varieties of antelope in the park and we've seen eight today," he said. We weren't grumbling, though our party of five agreed that some rhinos would not have gone amiss. A couple of us had spent the previous night at one of the floodlit waterholes in the park and had been rewarded with a brief appearance by two adults and a

calf. But that night belonged to a show-stealing parade of elephants who seemed more intent on teasing the meagre crowd with their sluggish antics than on soaking up a trunkful of water. Two days later, however, we saw our rhinos on an early morning game drive in Mount Etjo private game park. It was no easy task: we had to test the 4x4 vehicle to the limit, not to mention the tracking abilities of our guide. With the family of (white) rhinos in my sights - almost dangerously close - I forgot all about my rude awakening at 5am by the park's hippopotamuses which had been wallowing loudly not more than a few hundred yards from my quarters.

With about 160,000 inhabitants, Windhoek, Namibia's capital, is by no means a throbbing metropolis. In fact, it's the sort of place where, if you were intending to paint the town red you would need no more than a small tin. However, this is no major calamity as most visitors arrive jaded, having just completed an



Namibian tribeswoman: the barren Namib Desert is sometimes referred to as "the valley of the moon"

extensive tour of either the north or south regions of the country, and rest invariably tops the agenda. Should you wish to take in some of the sights and sounds of the city - and it is worthwhile - then head for Independence Avenue which forms the hub of the downtown area. One of the city's landmarks is the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Christuskirche), with its graceful spire is well worth a visit, as is Tintenpalast (Ink Palace), Windhoek's historic seat of government.

DAVID HACKETT

### How to get there and where to stay

□ David Hackett was a guest of Hayes & Jarvis (reservations: 0181-748 5050; fax: 0181-741 0299) in conjunction with Oryx Tours Namibia.

□ He flew from Heathrow to Windhoek with Air Namibia (0181-944 6181) and spent the final two nights of his stay as a guest of the Safari Court Hotel in Windhoek.

□ An eight-night Namib Explorer tour with Hayes & Jarvis costs from £1,340, including flights, an escorted seven-day tour plus full-board accommodation and two nights (bed & breakfast only) in Windhoek.

□ For further information contact the Namibian Tourist Office, 6 Charles Street, London W1M 0LQ (0171-636 2924).

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\* The itinerary for our 28 August departure is in reverse order.

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## TRAVEL

SPAIN: Córdoba pays its respects to a British artist who sowed the seeds of tourism

## Paint the town with relatives

ROBERT HARDING

The traveller can sometimes be rewarded with a moment so memorable, so unexpectedly touching that it compensates for any trials of travel. So it was one evening recently, in a lamplit square in the Andalusian city of Córdoba, when my family found ourselves in the midst of a crowd singing *Onward Christian Soldiers* in Spanish.

It was a service of dedication, the culmination of a brief visit to Spain for the naming of this square after my great-grandfather, the artist F.W. Topham of Hampstead, who had died at Córdoba in 1877. The mayor had just named the square, with its children's playground and bandstand, Plaza del Pintor Topham, and now the local Protestant Evangelical congregation were singing the hymn.

The reason for this honour to Topham was that he had been one of the first artists to introduce the British to the light, colour and topographical delights of Spain at a time when survivors of the Peninsular War were still recalling their dark and horrific memories.

In a sense, perhaps, this bearded Victorian with his sketchbook was sowing the first seeds of mass tourism and I wondered, as we sang in the square, whether his efforts had been beneficial to Spain. His successors would now avoid the vulgarity of the Costas, where he had painted the fishermen, and it would be difficult to find such scenes as he recorded in *Preparing for the Festival* and *At the Wall*, for example.

Córdoba is often described as archetypally Spanish but the Islamic influence is everywhere, for it was once the capital of Moorish Spain. Topham first painted here in 1852, so missing two seasons of acting with his friend Charles Dickens's amateur theatrical company, and, in old age, he returned here to die after an exhausting 17-hour journey from Madrid by the new railway.

There is still a great deal of Córdoba that he would recognise: the narrow, cobbled streets, winding between low, whitewashed houses with doors open to display the flowery, tiled courtyards within; the Spanish palaces and, above all, the great mosque, the Mezquita (completed before the first Norman church was built in England), where the resurgent Spanish planted a cathedral in the midst of the avenues of columns and arches.

When I first visited Córdoba 35 years ago a few shops sold postcards, but the souvenir industry was not as it is now. In the streets around the Mezquita shops sell castanets, bullfight posters overprinted with the tourist's name, and not just black, flat-rimmed Spanish hats but safari hats, Australian hats and baseball caps. Leather and silver filigree are traditional Córdoba products but often the tackiness of tourism has corrupted their original rich, bold Spanish and Islamic designs.

Mercifully, that delightful institution, the tapas bar, has not yet been vulgarised. With their fading pictures of the Madonna, or long-dead bullfighters on their walls, it is in these



The light, colour and topographical delights of Córdoba were first introduced to the British in the paintings of F.W. Topham (below)

bars that sometimes one can see those marvellous Spanish faces that Topham had painted with relish: the silent, saturnine men, the haughty beauties, and their elders built like the trunks of olive trees.

Out of doors there was an occasional flash of recognition on seeing some little tableau that he would instantly have sketched: a pavement fire-eater without any audience; an old man in black standing in the cemetery with bowed head before the plastic flowers

on his wife's grave. The handsome, modern city is wrapped around all this but we seldom ventured there from our hotel, which was entered through a gate in the city walls. For a four-night visit, there was enough in the old city (museums, churches, palaces) to keep the eye and mind busy without over-taxing the feet. Alongside the Museo del Bellas Artes was another devoted to the Córdoba artist Julio Romero de Torres. He painted a different Spain from

Topham's, where in the 1920s they were not so much preparing for the fiesta, or drawing water from the well, as glowering in jealousy, taking their clothes off or stabbing each other in crimes of passion.

Late Spanish eating hours made the morning the time for sightseeing, leaving shopping until after the siesta, when the shoe and leather-work shops were a reminder that the word "cordwainer" for a shoemaker derived from "Córdovan". The late dinner-hour emphasised the nocturnal beauty of the city, the lamplight illuminating the texture of old white walls and carved façades, and throwing dramatic shadows.

Like most Victorian painters, Topham was sentimental, and I like to think he would have wanted to sketch an English family standing before an ancestral gravestone, and, later, singing their heads off in noisy, happy Anglo-Spanish harmony.



Preparing for the Festival, painted by F.W. Topham in 1869

## How to get there and where to stay

- ☐ Tom Pocock travelled with Magic of Spain, 227 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7AS (0181-748 7575).
- ☐ Magic of Spain offers two nights at the hotel Amistad de Córdoba for £368 per person including flight, B&B and car hire. Thereafter it costs £59 per person per night including car hire.
- ☐ Iberia Airlines (0171-830 0011) flies daily between Heathrow and Seville. Fares start from £165 return.
- ☐ More information from the Spanish Tourist Office, 57 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LT (0171-499 0901).

TOM POCOCK

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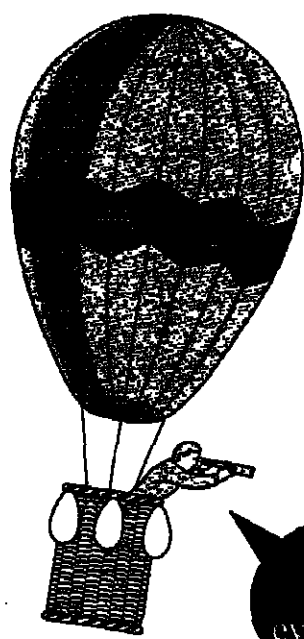
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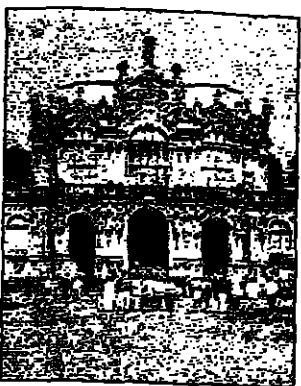
مكتبة الأصل



# TRAVEL

21

## GERMANY: The Frauenkirche dome is being rebuilt for Dresden's 800th birthday



The Zwinger palace

A million and a half tourists will gaze this year upon a pile of stones at the heart of what was once one of Europe's finest cities.

For coachloads of mainly Western German visitors to Dresden — the rising star of former East Germany — it is a pilgrimage to witness the painstaking rebirth of a city once known as "the Florence of the North".

The charred and blackened stone fragments are all that remains of the once magnificent Frauenkirche, the 18th-century Protestant Church of Our Lady built during the German Romantic movement over a period of 19 years.

After the war, the Communists allowed the rubble to remain where it had fallen as a reminder of the horrors that visited this city on the night of February 13, 1945, when RAF Bomber Command hit Dresden first with high explosives and then with incendiary bombs. They lit the terrifying firestorm that killed up to 130,000 people, many of whom were refugees who had fled from the advancing Russian army. The raids also destroyed Europe's finest baroque city, with its domes, spires, art and porcelain, leaving little more than the charred facades.

Five years on from the fall of the Iron Curtain, the city is rebuilding the Frauenkirche



The ruins of the old Kreuzkirche by Bernardo Bellotto, known as the Dresden Canaletto as he was the Venetian's nephew

## A city on the mend

with the aim that the 310ft-high dome, commissioned by the Saxon ruler, Augustus the Strong, stand proud above the city in time for its 800th birthday in 2006. Already much of the rubble has been sorted, identified and stacked in row upon row of wooden racks awaiting re-use.

Remarkably, given the scale of the destruction in Dresden, the city skyline is today much as it was depicted by Bernardo Bellotto during his 18th-century

adoration of the city on the Elbe. This is thanks to the painstaking repair and reconstruction of the principal buildings, first by the Communists and latterly with the help of Western money.

The completion of the Frauenkirche will form the missing piece in the jigsaw that makes up the famous view depicted by Bellotto from the right bank of the Elbe. Bellotto, known as the Dresden Canaletto as he was the

nephew of the more famous Venetian, left Venice to spend 20 years as a painter to the Saxon court. He painted Dresden's skyline, street scenes and riverscapes.

Today, 14 Bellottos form part of the priceless collection which has been reassembled in the Old Masters gallery at the Zwinger. This is a remarkable "palace" originally conceived as an orangery by Augustus the Strong in the 18th century, and only com-

pleted late last century. Its galleries surround a quadrangle with fountains.

Besides the Bellottos, the museum contains a fine collection of Flemish and other Masters, including works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, the "other" Canaletto and, in pride of place, Raphael's Sistine Madonna, whose cherubs have adorned chocolate boxes over the centuries.

A walk past the restored castle, beneath a mural depicting the glories of the Saxony of old and towards the ruins of the Frauenkirche, takes you to the Albertinum, the home of the New Masters collection, with various works by the German Romantics and French Impressionists.

Later material includes Otto

### Fact File

- Lufthansa (0345 737747) flies daily except Saturdays from Heathrow, via Stuttgart. Fares from £164.
- Mercure Newa Dresden (00 49 351 4814182), with rooms from £50, is conveniently placed on the edge of the city centre.
- Dresden tourist information (00 49 351 336 1259).

Dix's daunting depictions of war on the Western Front and the remnants of work by the early 20th-century Die Brücke group, which was purged by Hitler for its "decadence".

Central Dresden has much more to occupy the art lover, not least the extraordinary Green Vault, with its collection of priceless jewels.

I crossed the river by ferry and walked in the grounds of Pillnitz Palace, a remarkable "chateau" in the Japanese style, built beneath the vineyards that climb the steep south-facing banks of the Elbe. Also worth exploring are the wonderful 19th-century villas on the north side of the river, reached from the city by funicular railway.

There is little in Dresden today to betray the long years spent under communism. The people may not all have embraced capitalism with enthusiasm as jobs in traditional industries have evaporated, but capitalism has certainly embraced them.

Department stores are busy and the cranes that dominate the skyline demonstrate the business confidence that has kept Dresden's unemployment below 11 per cent — far lower than elsewhere in the former East.

Visiting the city — particularly the wide faceless boulevards that have replaced the acres of destruction after the war — can be a chastening experience, but the ongoing reconstruction of Dresden's finest buildings has put the city firmly back on the list of Europe's cultural landmarks.

STAN ABBOTT

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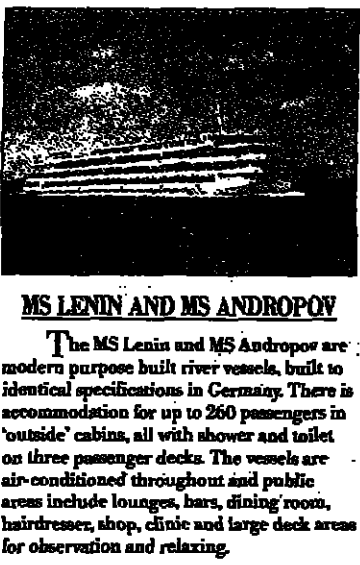
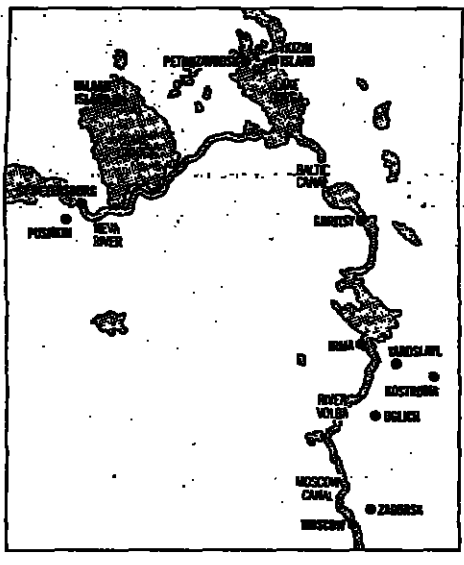
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### THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London Heathrow to St Petersburg and drive to the vessel moored on the Neva River.

DAY 2 Morning drive around St Petersburg, leaving many of its imperial and aristocratic palaces including the great baroque complex of Smolny Convent and Institute, and the Hermitage Museum. Optional afternoon visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress Cathedral and the great church of St Isaac. Evening musical performance.

DAY 3 A morning visit to Pushkin (Tsarskoe Selo), the great Rococo Palace built for the Empress Elizabeth by Rastrelli. Later visit the Palace of Pavlovsk, which was designed by the Scottish architect Charles Cameron. In the afternoon see part of the magnificent collection of European Art in the Hermitage, founded by Catherine the Great. Sail in the evening.

DAY 4 Morning at leisure for independent sightseeing and shopping in St Petersburg. Sail at noon.

DAY 5 Morning arrival at the island of Khizhi in Lake Onega. Visit the imposing 22-domed Church of the Transfiguration, a marvel of 18th century Russian wooden architecture. Also see some renowned 18th century buildings — farmhouses, a sauna, saw-mill and water mill.

DAY 6 Petrozavodsk. Here a visit will be made to the Art Museum, an excellent bookshop and the local market where hand-knitted and crocheted work is of the finest traditional quality.

DAY 7 Continue along the Baltic canal and White Lake to the town of



Cortney. Visit the Kirill-Belozorsk Monastery.

DAY 8 Irma. Much of today will be spent cruising with a short stop at the interesting village of Irma.

DAY 9 Today we visit the historic Yaroslavl, a well-preserved "Golden Ring" city in the centre of the city, are the lovely church of Elijah, the frescoes on the walls and walking inside the church which are magnificent.

DAY 10 Kostroma is one of the loveliest cities of the Golden Ring. Visit the 14th century Ipatievsky Monastery, now a museum.

DAY 11 Approaching the town of Uglich along the Volga, one is suddenly confronted with a delightful view of the Church of St John and the Cathedral of the

Restoration, its blue cupolas dotted with golden stars making a magical sight. Short afternoon visit to Bely Gorodok.

DAY 12 Moscow Cruising through Moscow canal and a series of locks en route to Moscow. Arrive in the evening and moor for a 3 night stay.

DAY 13 Visit the Kremlin to see the Cathedrals of Annunciation, the Assumption and the Archangel Michael and the fine collection of imperial regalia arms and carriages in the Armoury Museum. Optional theatre visit.

DAY 14 Drive to Zagorsk, seat of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Monastery Complex of the Trinity of St Sergius.

DAY 15 Sightseeing programme included until departure to London.

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ATOL 264

### Answers from page 27

#### ACCIPITRAL

(c) Of the nature of a falcon or hawk, rapacious, keen-sighted, from the Latin accipiter a hawk. "That Hawthorne's eye was sometimes accipitral we can readily believe."

#### ATRAMENTOUS

(a) Inky, ink-like, black as ink, from the Latin atramentum blacking ink, atrare to blacken. "Smalls send out their eyes like atramentous spots, fixed at the end of their horns."

#### BRAD

(c) A thin flattish nail of the same thickness throughout, but tapering in width.



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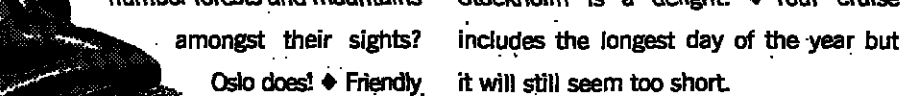
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SUMMER CONCERTS: Robin Neillands discovers music in some of the most unlikely places

## Glad rags opera in the pig barn

There are times when I think that the English are mad, and other times when I am sure of it. The second feeling overcomes me when I encounter one of those English creations where enthusiasm seems to have overcome reason. Take, for example, David Ealand's rural opera.

Once a month, in the unlikely setting of a former pig farm in the Chilterns, Mr Ealand hosts an opera evening. To get there, you turn off the road by the Thames at Hambleden, drive up a winding lane towards the crest of a hill (second gear stuff this), swerve into the farmyard, and there you are, all tucked out in a smart frock or dinner jacket, ready for three hours of opera, with dinner during the interval.

Despite the unusual setting, there is nothing amateur about Mr Ealand's "Music at Luxters" evenings. The singers

have performed at Glyndebourne, or Covent Garden or with the English National Opera, and Richard Baker is the patron. Chefs prepare the food, accommodation can be arranged in nearby hotels and, as Mr Ealand's Old Luxters pig farm is now a successful private vineyard, there is plenty of English wine.

The musical evenings take place in a barn: a carefully restored, well-lit and heated barn, but a barn nevertheless, holding 140 people.

The evenings are wildly successful, scores of people seem willing to get into their glad rags and spend an evening on an old pig farm in the Chiltern woods listening to opera. Only the English would do such a thing, and I have discovered that people are doing it all over the country.

One of the leading organisers of rural opera is English Heritage, which is hosting a country-wide series

of opera evenings this summer as its contribution to the 1995 "Festival of Art and Culture".

Rural opera usually offers the popular stuff, and English Heritage has plumped for two certain crowd-pullers, *Tosca* and *The Magic Flute*. These will be sung in historic settings as far apart as Battle Abbey in Sussex, Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire and Belsay Hall in Northumberland.

The list of unorthodox venues continues. Charles II hid in the oak tree at Boscombe in Shropshire when fleeing from the Roundheads, so Boscombe will be the setting for a weekend featuring "The Music of the Cavaliers and Roundheads". Goodrich Castle, near Hereford, offers "Music with Archery".

So it goes on throughout the summer, with the musical selection growing ever wider, and wilder. The Roman site at Corbridge in Northumbria is not the first place you might think of for an evening featuring "Music of the Andes", performed by a sextet from



The music of *Die Fledermaus* rings through Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire

Cusco in Peru, but why not? Those who hesitate to attend may be tempted by a pre-concert glass of Peruvian wine.

Those with a low culture threshold will be glad to know that the offerings are not confined to high art. At Old Luxters this month, Mr Ealand is presenting "Un Bistrot Parisien", with food and music to match, followed in June by "A Night on Broadway", with songs from the Broadway shows, and in July with "Wave the Flag", perfect for those people who cannot get tickets for the BBC's *Last Night of the Proms*.

Meanwhile, in the Old Priory at Much Wenlock, Shropshire, this, That and The Other Theatre Group is offering "Hissses, Kisses and Misses", a weekend of Victorian melodrama of "virulent villainy, naughty niceties and dashing ditties". This event,

and many others throughout the country, is part of a year-round "Music that brings History Alive" programme offered by English Heritage.

For a sweetly scented evening, the Royal National Rose Society is running a music and drama series at Chiswell Green, St Albans, Hertfordshire, starting on June 16, with Terry Lightfoot and his band. Visitors can picnic among the roses in the 12-acre garden.

National Trust Events has a full summer programme, too. Richard Stilgoe will host the NT Family Concert at Igham Mote, Kent, on July 16, featuring

the "1812 Overture", with cannon fire provided by the audience bursting paper bags.

National Music Day is on June 24 and 25, yes, that is two days, because last year's Day was so successful, with more than 1,000 events large and small, that two days are needed this year to fit in everything.

National Music Day is for everyone who enjoys live music, and anyone can take part. Among the more unusual events last year was a barbershop quartet which sang to a crowd of climbers on the top of Snowdon; the Prison Band

of Dartmoor, which went on a "Behind the Bars" tour of other prisons; and a man from Derby who offered to play any caller a selection from his collection of television test card music. Don't laugh; lots of people watch the test cards and he had scores of calls.

The sound of music can be heard all over Britain, in locations ranging from the Roman Wall and ruined castles to village halls and former pig farms. If the music is right and the enthusiasm is there, the weather and setting hardly matter, but it may help to be British, or just a little bit mad.

Highwood Ash, Highwood Hill, Mill Hill, London NW7 (0181-959 1183). Open today and tomorrow, 2-6pm. £1, children 50p.

The garden of more than three acres presents a fine varied scene with formal areas designed by Perry Cane close to the house. Rhododendrons and azaleas grow in grassy surroundings, along with individual trees, such as fine hornbeam, swamp cypress and parrotia, which give spectacular autumn colour. In 1987, a round upper pond with a waterfall was added, dropping into a lower lake of half an acre. Large herbaceous and shrub borders flank the pond, overlooked by the house, and the beds in the formal rose garden, enclosed by yew hedges, are divided by paved paths. One of the most rewarding areas is the lower lawn, reached via steps from the rose garden, where a summer house at one end commands views across the lawn to a venerable cedar, up to the herbaceous border and down to the lake.

Barnesley House, Barnesley, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire (01285 740281). Four miles northwest of Cirencester. Barnesley Festival, today and tomorrow (01285 740382 for details). Gardens open all year Mon, Wed, Thurs and Sat, 10am-6pm. £2, children free (free Dec-Feb).

This weekend, Rosemary Verey's renowned garden will be a highlight of the village festival. The four-acre garden is an education

### Gardens to visit



The gardens of Barnesley House

in planting and the busy integration of design into a relatively limited area. The walk of pleached lines into the laburnum tunnel will be at its best, as will the selection of ornamental trees at one end of the side lawn. An absorbing array of early flowering herbaceous plants will be coming out in the various borders, and visitors should take in the skill with which plants are arranged for combinations of shape and texture as well as leaf and flower. In the ornamental kitchen garden, rows of new growth will be up in the pattern of beds divided by paths and box hedging. Here, the trained and arched fruit trees are in blossom. Also open this weekend

is Barnesley Park, a wonderful early 18th-century house overlooking gardens on three sides linking to the parkland beyond a ha-ha.

Wallington, Cambs, Northumberland (01670 74283). Twelve miles west of Morpeth off A696, signed on B6342. Open April-Sep daily 10am-7pm; Oct. daily 10am-6pm; Nov-Mar, daily 10pm-4pm (dark if earlier). £2.30, children £1.15.

Wallington is a gem that has avoided National Trust fustiness since it was bequeathed by the Trevelyan family. The original 18th-century work was partly restored and extended after 1886 by Sir George Trevelyan. Capability Brown was born in the next-door village of Kirkcubbin, but was not responsible for the landscaped park. On both sides of the house, 18th-century woodland gardens (the new leaf is just emerging) retain their basic pattern of paths and ponds. Overlooking the pond is the classical Porch House. The main surprise at Wallington is the sloping walled garden beyond the Porch House and its pond. It is curiously uneven and long in shape, with a terrace extending along the top side against whose boundary wall fine Edwardian glasshouses have been restored. Paths divide the numerous borders, replanted by the Trust around features such as a fountain pool and curving flight of steps.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE



The converted pig barn opera hall at Hambleden

### Opera and concert notes

For details of the "Music at Luxters" monthly opera evenings, call David Ealand, Old Luxters Farmhouse, Hambleden, near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 6JW (01491 638330, £40 per head, including dinner).

For information about the Royal National Rose Society's music and drama series, contact RNRS, Chiswell Green, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL2 3NR (01777 850461).

For details of open-air concerts and operas organised by English Heritage call 0171-973 3427. Tickets can be obtained from Ticketmaster on the English Heritage concert line, 0171-413 1443. Open-air

operas £20 (concessions £16), concerts £7 upwards. A free brochure on all the nationwide events in the 1995 Festival of Art and Culture can be obtained from the festival organisers on 0839 001905. Calls cost 39p a minute cheap rate 49p at other times.

Anyone interested in taking part in National Music Day can get details from National Music Day 1995, PO Box 282, London W1A 2BZ (0171-629 5912). Registration fee £5.

A list of National Trust Events can be obtained from Maggie White, Sootney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent (01892 991001). Ticket prices range from £10-£14.

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Five hundred pilot whales have been seen off Tenerife and, with luck, enthusiasts should be able to swim with the 15ft gentle giants on a four-night weekend; £521 covers flights, self-catering accommodation and daily trips.

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**MAJORCA SAMPLER**  
A FEW days in Majorca should convince doubters to come back for more. Its underrated capital, Palma, can rival any in the Mediterranean for holiday ingredients with its sophisticated shopping and eating, good hotels and shady ramblas, secret cloisters and the third largest cathedral in Spain, reflecting the island's rich history.

Unicorn Holidays, with a programme of weekend and short breaks to the island, offers three nights B&B at the five-star Hotel Son Vida above the Bay of Palma, with indoor and outdoor pools, tennis court, health club and a 20 per cent discount on any golf course on the island. The price is £454 to £566, including flights and car hire.

At the opposite, and exclusive, end of Majorca, breaks at the five-star Hotel Formentor, of which Edward G. Robinson said, "You'll find more Oscars here than in Hollywood", cost £399 to £551 and, even now, many guests never stray from its secluded gardens and beach.

High up in the beautiful mountainous part of the coast at Deyá, you can have a three-night break at the Residencia, a converted 16th-century mansion, from £472 to £524; sea bathing is by courtesy bus down to the rocky coves.

● Unicorn Holidays, 2 Place Farm, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8SB (01582 534400).

**RURAL HIDEAWAYS**  
THERE are attractive hideaways in rural France for three-night fly/drive weekends from Luton. A break in Moissac, for example, the tiniest of hilltop villages in Provence, is an excuse to explore one of Europe's greatest natural freaks, the Grand Canyon of Verdon. You can kayak through it, walk along it, join a raft party at Moustiers, or drive the 100-mile circuit. The views and drops are rather grandeur with terror.

The Hotel Calalou is relaxed rather than luxurious, with local-style cooking, a pool and tennis court. It is a good base for other Provencal towns such as Arles or Tournon. The half-board break, which includes car hire, costs £439 to £471 with flights to Marseilles, two hours' drive from Moissac. Extra nights cost £85.

Other similar fly/drive weekends to two and three-star *chateaux* and converted 15th-century mills in Najac, Collioure, and the Dordogne, Tarn and Lot, cost £299 to £395.

● Intravel, Hovingham, York YO6 4JZ (01553 628811).

**MIDDLE EAST PROMISE**  
PEACE in the Middle East (or a sort of peace) has inspired a surge of tourist interest in the region; a specialist, Jamsin Tours, offers several short breaks.

While controlling tourism care-



With patience and luck, enthusiasts can spend their Icelandic holiday watching and filming whales, dolphins and porpoises swimming among the icebergs

fully, the Sultanate of Oman is slowly opening up for visitors. A three-night B&B trip with British Airways costs £551 in May, £521 in June, with flying time about eight hours. With only half that time in the air, a similar break to Beirut, once again vying to become the Paris of the Middle East, costs £399. A longer, five-night stay in Damascus (four and half hours) — which would make excursions to Palmyra and Krak des Chevaliers possible — costs £448, also B&B.

In a new Asia Savers programme Premier Holidays offers five nights in Dubai (six and a half hours), a top holiday choice incidentally among travel agents, costing £495 to £538 (no meals). This little Emirate deserves much more than use as a mere stopover on Far East routes. It has exceptional duty-free airport shopping and gold souk. One of the pre-bookable trips from Premier includes a Dune Roller Desert Driving course (£134) in a four-wheel-drive Land Cruiser.

● Jamsin Tours, High Street,

Cookham, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 9SQ (01628 53121). Premier Holidays, Westbrook, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1YQ (0223 516077).

**CITY CULTURE**  
TIME Off, the city specialist, and Prospect Tours, the art specialist, have joined forces to produce a Cultural Cities programme, a series of short city visits, accompanied by experts, but with time for individual exploration.

The painter Hans Memling vividly depicts the domestic life of the Bruges of his day which, architecturally at least, has changed little; this is one of the subjects covered in the three-night Bruges visit costing £295 with travel by Eurostar, three nights' B&B and two half-day tours with the specialist and museum entries included.

Walking tours of the Old Town and a visit to the Castle District are included in a similar three-night break to Prague. Their weekend to Reykjavik (£495) has visits to the National Museum and the Museum of Fine Art, the Althing,

believed to be the oldest existing Parliament in the world, plus an excursion to the Gullfoss waterfall and the Geysir area.

Other cities in the programme are Paris, Brussels, Nice, Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Stockholm and Zurich. Groups are never larger than 20.

● Cultural Cities, 454-458 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5TT (0181-995 2153).

**POSH PADS**  
THERE are some glossy self-catering apartments available for short breaks in Venice, Rome and Paris from International Chapters, which could give holidaymakers an excuse to plunder the markets and delicatessens and enjoy a brief experience of what it's like to live in these cities. Most properties are centrally situated.

A pied-à-terre sleeping three, for example, at Place Wagram, Paris, with daily maid service, costs £296 (per property) for three nights, without travel, though there is

some private parking for those who want to take their own car.

A couple looking for a room with a view in Venice might choose Salute II, a ground-floor apartment on the Canale della Giudecca, a vaporetto stop from San Marco, (£285 for three nights).

Among the flats in Rome, the "Copella" between the Pantheon and the Piazza Navona, overlooking a square and an open market and furnished with antiques, costs £457 for two people (for three nights), excluding travel. Four-night breaks and longer holidays are also available.

● International Chapters, 102 St John's Wood Terrace, London NW8 6PL (0171-722 0722).

**FOR ALL POCKETS**  
WITH its outdoor attractions as well as excellent shopping, theatre and eating, Toronto is proving a popular spring and summer short break destination for Cresta Holidays, which offers three nights for £408 until July, £517 during July

and £558 in August, with B&B hotel accommodation and flights. It is also possible to fit in a trip to Niagara Falls on a day excursion costing £41.50.

At a more modest price, Cresta has introduced a two-in-one deal for self-drive breaks across the Channel. Anyone booking a mini-break using Sally Ferries before the end of June receives a voucher for a free second crossing for car and up to five passengers for a day trip or short break between October 1, 1995 and March 31, 1996.

The short-breaks brochure (call 0161-926 9999) features hotels in Northern France, Paris, Belgium and Holland. Ideal for hyper-marché addicts, the cheapest one-night stay in Arras, Boulogne, Calais, Lille or St Omer until July costs £82 to £95 per person with two sharing, with, of course, more restocking to come in the winter.

● Cresta Short Breaks, Tabley Court, Victoria Street, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1EZ (0161-926 9999).

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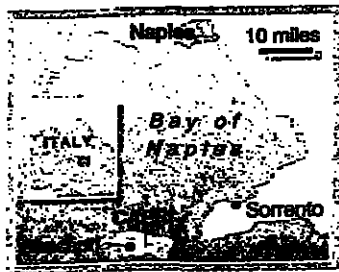


ISLANDS: Capri and Lanzarote are worlds apart in scenery but each has its particular magnetism

## The rock garden of Tiberius

The isle of Capri, in the Bay of Naples, has exerted a fascination over visitors for centuries. Roman villas were built over Greek temples; Saracens, Turks and sundry corsairs scaled its cliffs and terrorised its inhabitants. Spain, France and Britain held it at various times, and celebrated families (Onassis, Kennedy, Bismarck) and the well-known (D.H. Lawrence, Grace Fields, Lenin, Maxim Gorki) have lived there. Its fascination, despite the swamping by tourists, persists. Capri is physically remarkable. Saddleback in shape, the sheer, south-facing limestone cliffs tower nearly 2,000ft. Trees sprout in impossible places. Caves and grottoes, niches, rock arches and stacks abound. In the Blue Grotto, improbably claimed to have been used by the Roman emperor Tiberius as a swimming-pool reached by a tunnel, boatmen haul on a chain to swing their craft under the tiny entrance arch into a cavern of luminous blue water. Years ago a boy used to dive into the water to retrieve coins thrown by tourists, and his body merging with the blueness suggested to one awestruck Edwardian visitor deliverance into the afterlife.

Capri is only about four miles long by one and a half miles wide but, because its profile is so dramatic and its roller-coaster slopes so impressive, its extent seems much larger. The whole island is formed of limestone, the rock turned up on end by a series of geological movements. Many of its wild flowers, which stud the high ground, are unique. Large bees track between the flowerheads. A blue lizard is said to have made its home there. The flora, though altered by the introduction of pine trees all over the island, can be seen in more pristine state where it tumbles down rock gullies.



### Getting there

✉ Instyle (01784 240392) organises British Airways flights to Naples from £129. The Naples to Capri hydrofoil costs £7. Hotels in Capri range from luxury Quisisana (from £135 per person per night) to the modest Florida (£55 per person half-board).

Anacapri, the part on the high cliff lionised by the Swedish physician Axel Munthe in his autobiography *The Story of San Michele*, is cut off from its ancient enemies on the part called Capri by a precipice. To service this eerie community, about 900 steps were cut into the cliff.

During the three years the British controlled Capri (starting 1806), the captain of the Anacapri garrison rode up to his headquarters on a frisky Arab horse, a stomach-churning challenge to anyone who has seen the stairway.

Most places and products in Capri are named after Tiberius, whose reputation as a misanthrope and child-thriller persists, despite being derived from dubious sources. Such a lurid label has more tourist appeal than if he had been a wise but dull recluse. Nevertheless, it is extraordinary to consider that by messages bounced from watchtowers Tiberius con-



Pathways on Capri lead to beautiful coves and rock formations

trolled the far-off seat of empire for 11 years. Even the cheapest local wine is named Tiberio, and good value at £2 a bottle. For those wanting denser experiences there is a whisky mysteriously called "Old England" at £4.

The town of Capri, in the east of the island, would have an even more spectacular setting were it not for the "cementification" of the houses that have grown around it. What redeems the island from its proliferation of villas, some of which project from the rock face on buttresses, is the intermingling of gardens. Capri is vigorous horticulturalists and tend their gardens early and late: wherever there is a level patch of earth, fruit and vegetables flourish; where there is not, terracing is created. The result is huge quantities of lemons, figs, grapes, cherries, onions, tomatoes, prunes,

melons and olives. Indeed the fragrance of the island's lemon groves wafts across to winding walkways and pretty piazzas.

Although the advancement of villas is growing to keep pace with the demands of organised tourism, it is not tasteless development. Painted white, many villas are given gravitas by Roman colonnades, urns and statuary, and crawled over by convolvulus; a scene that during the day bounces with a dazzling light. At night, candlelit Madonnas glow in niches on the walkway corners.

Capri is rich with history. Churches, passageways, watchtowers, fortresses and unstudied ruins serving forgotten purposes dot the landscape. As the sun sets on your evening stroll, you realise with a shiver that you are walking along routes devised and trodden by Roman soldiers.

MICHAEL WIGAN

## Land of fire mountains

Cesar Manrique has gone, and the people of Lanzarote, in the Canary archipelago, are anxiously hoping that the developers will be kept at bay. The restraint which the painter, sculptor, architect, ecologist, town planner and curator of this small island exerted is holding, but only just.

While living on earnings from his private commissions, Manrique devoted himself to Lanzarote and stamped his personality on the landscape. It is thanks to him that the main part of the island's development is of a traditional, low-rise nature: the buildings painted white, with blue (for fishermen) and green (for farmers) paintwork on the doors and window frames.

Manrique was also responsible for a number of artistic additions to the island's landscape. The beautiful Los Jamez del Agua on the northeast coast is a fine example; he took a natural volcanic cave, added water, plants and a minimum of non-intrusive buildings to create an impressive tourist attraction. See, too, his cactus gardens in Guatiza, and at the restaurant at the Timanfaya National Park. Above all, visit his former home, the Fundación Cesar Manrique in Taro de Tahiche, which was built into an old lava flow, volcanic bubbles' becoming rooms and living areas. The property houses Manrique's private collection of his art and work.

Manrique was killed in a car accident three years ago at the age of 73, and the island is trying to hold on to his ideas and ideals.

To experience the real Lanzarote, hire a car, preferably a four-wheel drive (some roads are constructed of bulldozed lava flow), and head north — for two good reasons.

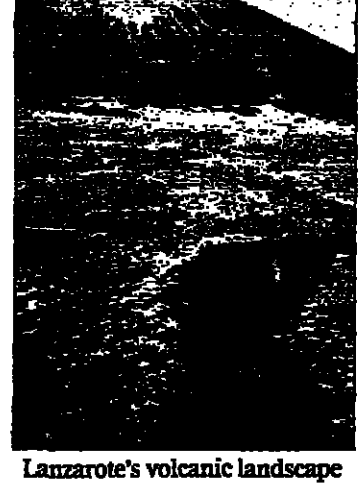
First, it is as far away from the tourist areas of Puerto del Carmen and Playa Blanca as you can get (though both towns are well-developed and clean with plenty of good bars and restaurants). Second, the best food that the island can offer is fish, and to taste it you must take a trip to a fishing village, such as Arrieta on the northeast coast. At Arrieta, make your way to the Bar Restaurant Miguel, a low, white building where, from the long tables with benches, there are fine views over the seafloor.



Ask what is the catch of the day: cherna is found only locally and, like many of the fish from this area, is a spiky-looking object, deep in the body, and served in substantial portions with a variety of delicious sauces. Vieja ("old woman") is a tasty carp-like fish, cooked in its skin and served simply with oil and vinegar. Cabrilla, pescadilla (whiting), and sama (red brace) are excellent, too.

All these dishes will be accompanied by another island speciality, papas arrugadas ("grandfather's potatoes"), which are small and cooked unpeeled in salt water, then eaten with their wrinkly skins.

Lanzarote produces a good selection of wines, and the local restaurants ensure that the house wine is



Lanzarote's volcanic landscape

of excellent quality. Watch out for Ron con miel (rum with honey), which is delicious, but very strong. Coffee is served espresso, or with a little milk (café cortado), or with a lot of milk (café con leche). You will probably be offered the choice of cow's milk or condensed.

Back in the car, head southwest through Guatiza, take the hilly road to Tegueste and then travel on to the Parque Nacional de Timanfaya. As national parks go, this one is different: mile after mile of twisted and tortured lava, punctuated by conical volcanoes called "fire mountains", which look as if they are only sleeping.

It was only 250 years ago that Lanzarote experienced the turmoil that created this region and, just a few inches below ground level, the rocks are too hot to touch. Even now, the whole area has an air of expectation.

Walking in this area is at best uncomfortable, but if you wish to venture into the fringes of the park there are camels to take you on a short trip. These are not a recent addition to the island, but descendants of working farm animals.

If you keep the hire car for a week you will have time to drive on every road on the island.

Forgo the sunbaths of the south and follow the example of the locals, who head for the northeast coast, where the unspoiled beaches are covered in a fine white Saharan sand brought in on the winds from Africa. Here the children build "sand" castles of black lava stones, and whole families enjoy barbecues and parties.

You may not see all the sights of Lanzarote in a week, but you will leave with the urge to return and explore more of this fascinating island.

SARAH COLE

● The author was a guest of Co-op Travelcare, PO Box 53, New Century House, Manchester M60 4ES (0161-827-5289), which offers one week in Lanzarote, self-catering, from £209 per person, based on two sharing; a 4-star hotel with B&B for two costs £349 per person. Seven day holidays for £160 are available during May. A Suzuki dual hire vehicle costs £235 for a week; larger vehicles, such as the Isuzu Trooper, cost £270. ● Further details from the Spanish National Tourist Board, 57 St James Street, London SW1A (0171-499 0901).

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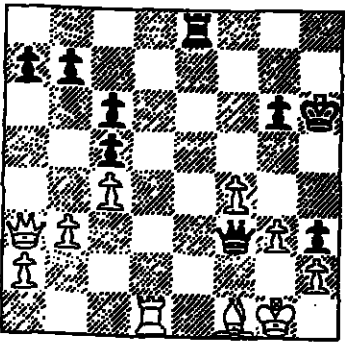


## CHESS

by Raymond Keene

IT IS extraordinary just how dangerous a humble pawn can be when it is pushed towards the vicinity of the opposing king. All sorts of mating nets and promotional possibilities are conjured up by its presence.

A case in point was the following position from the game Foukakis-Moor, European Under-18 Championship, 1994, which I published as a Winning Move on February 17. Black has sacrificed a piece to lure the white queen away from the defence of the king. What is now the best way for Black to continue?



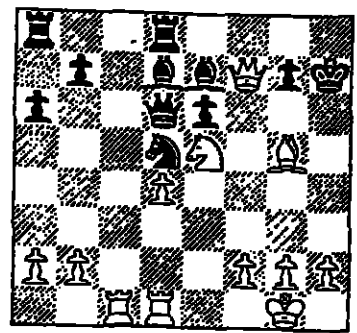
Solution: 1... Re2! and if 2 Bx2 Qg2 is mate. Otherwise, 2... Rg2! will be decisive. Less accurate is 1... Qxd1 when 2 Qxc5 allows White to struggle on.

Michael Macdonald-Cooper of Kiriemuir points out that in the event of White not capturing the rook with his second move, for example, 1... Re2 2 Qc1 Qf2 3 Kh1 Qd2 mate is the quickest conclusion. However, in the event of 1... Re2 2 Qxc5, Black must play 2... Rg2, as the f2-square is now protected by the white queen, rendering 2... Qf2 useless.

If you have sacrificed a piece for an attack it is vital to play the moves in the most accurate order. In this position from the game Kosten-Malfert, France 1993, which I published on March 6, White has sacrificed a piece and can draw by perpetual check with his queen. However, he found something better.

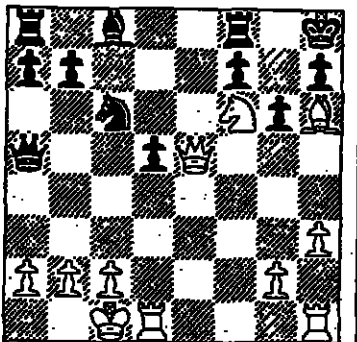
This position is from the game Andersson - Knutsson, Sweden 1974. Although Black is a piece in arrears, he has a way to win the game immediately. Can you see how?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers to be drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Association publication. The answer will be published next Saturday. Last week's solution: 1... Qxh3+ Last week's winners were S R



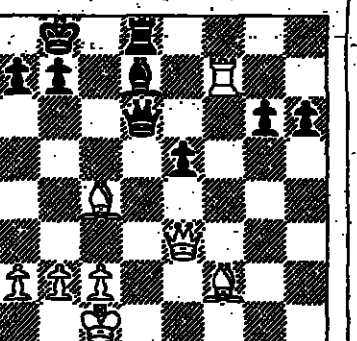
Here is what the grandmaster played: 1 Rd3! Bxg5 2 Rh3+ Bb6 3 Rxb6+ Kxh6 4 Qg6 checkmate. Mr Doughty of Tring suggests that 1 Bb6 is also a solution to this problem. He gives the variations 1... Kxh6 2 Qg6 mate or 1... Rg8 2 Qg6+ Kh6 3 Nf7 mate. This is a good try, but 1 Bb6 Bf6! is difficult to crack.

Finally, when attacking it is essential to use the weapon of discovered check with great caution. On March 22 I gave this conclusion from the game Mahbub-Alexander, London, 1961. White has tremendous threats on the dark squares, particularly along the a-h8 diagonal. Can you spot his winning combination?



Solution: 1 Bg7+ Kxg7 2 Ne8+ Kh6 3 Qg8 4 Qg7 is mate 3 Qf4+ g5 4 Qf6+ Kh5 5 Ng7+ Kh6 6 Qf2 mate. Mr Papworth of London NW8 wonders why 1 Nxb7+ Kxh7 2 Qg7 does not force a quicker mate. This does indeed work, but Black would prefer to capture the white queen with 1... Nxe5.

Brooks, Greensted, Ongar; J Boon, Steptey Green, London E1; A Barnes, Hackney, London E9.



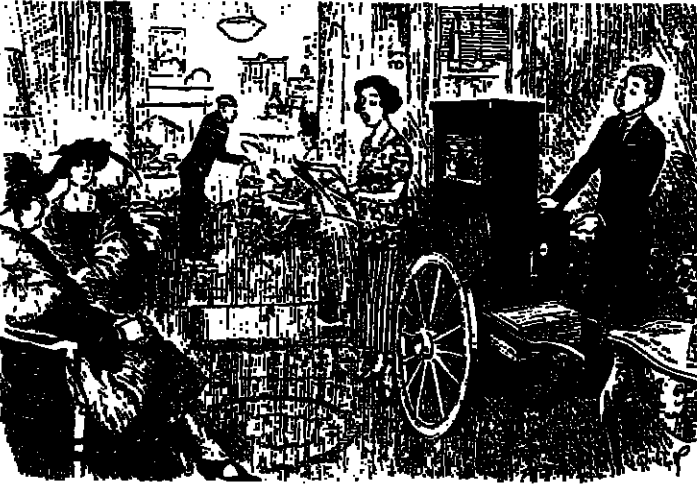
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 57, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 17.



"Yes, these new glands must be wonderful. I believe she used to wear a little red jacket and dance on top."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mabel Swift of Tamworth, Staffordshire

## Cyberspace Fourteen: the entries

"THE GREAT Jelly Race" is all about teamwork — and without it, you're nowhere. Of the many family racing games entered for Cyberspace Fourteen, only Neil Waters of Galashiels, Borders, revealed a true spark of originality.

In his "Great Jelly Race", up to four of you control one car. If you all turn in the right direction simultaneously then you'll successfully steer a course. But if you don't, the car splits apart and you'll waste time regrouping your car and efforts.

It's an ingenious idea which would be perfect if developed by Codemasters, which brought us the excellent "Micro Machines" and "Micro Machines 2". Incidentally, the latter is just out for the Sega Game Gear for one and two players, as well as the multi versions for the Sega Mega Drive and PC.

Several of you entered flights of fancy — of the feathered variety. Jake How of Haslemere, Surrey, came up with "Bird Bonanza", in which each player must complete different bird tasks in various

habitats to score points. "A robin will gain more by building its nest in a hedgerow than in a tree, and by feeding its young on insects rather than peanuts," he writes.

Peter Jackson of Tatsfield, Surrey, preferred to put all his eggs in one basket with the kestrel. If you got his bird you'd be hunting and swooping on mice while avoiding human hunters. He explains: "Other missions further on could involve having to find your newborn chick lost in the city. The idea is flexible and the range of missions could be created with a steadily increasing difficulty level."

Many of you favoured the idea of combining tried and tested ideas. For example, Jason Searle of Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, entered a video board game "incorporating elements from Trivial Pursuit and television's *The Crystal Maze*". Paul Magee of Alresford, Hampshire, came up with "a sort of interactive Trivial Pursuit and *Krypton Factor* rolled into one". Another nice touch, bearing in mind the competition's requirement to appeal to all the

family, was the idea from Martin Leigh of Twyford, Hampshire. His game, *Scavenger*, was the only one entered in which, as well as entering names for all the players, one also has to input relevant ages to kick in a handicap facility.

NORFOLK'S Andrew Whittle reminded us that the sweltering sunshine of late is only the tip of the iceberg. His game, *Holiday From Hell*, centres on that summer nightmare, the family vacation. He writes: "Each player takes on the role of a family member in the annual ritual of choosing a holiday. The game progresses through a series of scenes leading up to the holiday and also a wide range of scenes from the holiday." He added: "On designing the game it must be borne in mind that nothing should be as expected — neither the characters you meet, nor the travel arrangements, accommodation or any other facilities." Next week — who'll be picking up our Philips CD-I prizes.

TIM WAPSHOTT

by Robert Sheehan

WHEN you have a long side suit to be established and a trump position which is at all shaky, you will find that ducking an early round in the side suit often helps to keep control.

This is a simple example.

Dealer South Love all Rubber Bridge

♠	♥	♦	♣
AKQJ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQJ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQJ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQJ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQJ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQJ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQJ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ

S	W	N	E
1♠ Pass	1♥ Pass		
2♠ Pass	3♥ Pass		
3♠ Pass	4♥ Pass		

Contract: Four Spades by South. Opening lead: eight of spades.

What to open with 5-5 in clubs and spades is a subject of debate. I always open One Club whatever my strength, so that I can show both my suits. But it is undoubtedly true that on weak hands opening One Spade may gain in a pre-emptive way. With a strong hand it is clear to open One Club.

The next decision in the auction was South's rebid over North's One Heart response. Many duplicate players play that a jump in a new suit on the second round guarantees a fit for the responder's suit, and on that basis Two Spades at South's second turn would set hearts as trumps.

The rubber bridge style is to use such jumps in the traditional way of setting up a game-forcing sequence. After this South rebid his spades to show his 5-5 shape, and North raised to reach the good game.

To protect his club holding, West led a spade. South won in hand, unblocked the ace of hearts, and led ace and another club. West won the jack and led a second trump. The declarer won the queen of spades, and cashed the king of hearts throwing a diamond.

However he now had to ruff a diamond back to hand to draw trumps, and when the clubs were 4-2 he did not have enough trumps to both establish and cash the fifth club. He made five tricks in spades, two in hearts, and one in each of the minors.

Better play was to duck a club after cashing the ace of hearts. Now after West has cleared the trumps the declarer can come back to hand with a club to draw the remaining trumps. He is safe provided one of the black suits breaks evenly, whereas by playing ace and another club he needed both black suits to break.

Now try the defensive problem shown at the top of the next column. You are East:

Dealer West Love all

♠	♥	♦	♣
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKQ	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥

'Five-ace Blackwood.' Two 'aces' (the trump king and the ace of spades) with the queen of trumps. Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: king of clubs.

North's jump to Three Hearts was not entirely satisfactory with only three-card support, but his diamonds were not strong enough for Three Diamonds. South wins the opening lead of the king of clubs with the ace and plays ace, king and another diamond. On the third round both South and West discard clubs. What do you do?

Many players with some vague idea of knocking out dummy's entries would play a spade. But that really doesn't quite add up — if South has only one spade he must have at least five hearts, and so will have communication in that suit.

What do you make of South's discard on the third diamond? Why isn't he ruffing? It must be because his trump suit is none too robust. In that case the best defence will be to attack dummy's trumps — play a club. This was the full deal:

♠	♥	♦	♣
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ
AKA	AKQ	AKQ	AKQ

After dummy has ruffed the club return the declarer has to play the king of hearts and then overtake the queen of hearts with the ace to draw trumps: the 4-2 break defeats him.

Do you see the declarer's mistake? He can keep control of the hand by ducking the first round of diamonds. Now if the defence play clubs, dummy can ruff low. (The technique of making dummy ruff is often called "punching the dummy".) Then after playing off dummy's two trump honours, the declarer comes to hand with the ace of diamonds to draw trumps. And if the defence play passively after winning the first diamond, the declarer will make twelve tricks via two spade tricks, four hearts, five diamonds and one club. The ducking play makes Six Hearts nearly as good a contract as Six Diamonds.

## No. 3305: Sketch upon Grid F Law

Letters appearing in solutions to clues are restricted to those found in a phrase (9,9), in which there are no repetitions; all other letters are superfluous, and it is wisest to ignore all occurrences of these (and punctuation). In addition, there are places in the grid where crossing letters in across and down lights fail to agree; each light has one such "defect" for each letter ignored in its clue. So as not to cloud the issue, entrants are asked to draw a symbol (with one stroke of the pen for each different defect in the grid) in each such place instead of entering either letter, and also to deduce the phrase using the defects and write it on the line under the grid. It is suggested that those unsure of the symbol should shade the affected areas first, although this is not essential. The setter hopes to find lots of correct "solves".

- Across
- Slow past entrails one, since present ... (6)
  - ... hurried condition's surrounded with old irony, first of all (9)
  - Surrogate parent's wrong to feel sorrow for intruding (12)
  - Out of pity, fellow is falling for Shakespeare (6)
  - Bunion causes person to turn to sister (6)
  - Marches, with signs of hesitation, at knife-point (6)
  - Lance with trace of use replacing a new pike (4)

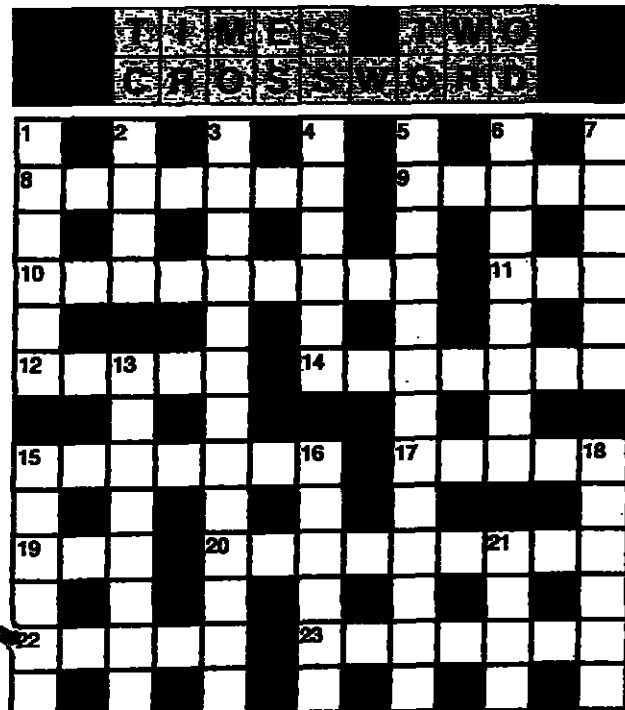
## Solution to No. 3302 Cipher by Noggs

B	A	Q	N	Z	G	P	O	W	W	O	W
Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N	G	H	M	Z
Q	U	N	A	I	U	L	H	Y	L	H	Y
V	H	D	A	O	R	I	B	X	H	A	F
O	V	M	M	Y	C	T	A	Q	S	I	Z
Y	J	Y	W	Y	E	T	A	Q	O	N	A
T	M	R	H	A	I	S	Y	T	Q	E	J
C	H	G	O	O	S	E	B	E	R	R	Y
H	V	R	M	R	T	C	W	V	Z	A	T
K	E	B	B	U	C	K	S	H	A	R	J
X	Y	T	L	K	N	I	G	H	T	L	Y
C	T	I	E	T	I	O	Z	Y	R	G	P

The puzzle used 5 different codes. Uncloded forms of answers were:

Code 1: 13a LATHE, 25a ALIBI, 4d JUNIOR, 7d FACADE, 10d BAHUVIRI, 21d DROGUE.  
Code 2: 15a PADDYMELON, 19a EDITOR, 30a MERCER, 3d SNOOD, 23d BIKER, 24d CATTY.  
Code 3: 1a VISUAL, 26a BRAID, 31a JANGLY, 2d SOUK, 8d BANZAI, 14d PERCHERON.  
Code 4: 9a KALINUT, 12a PAHOEHOE, 14a SWORN, 16a BEDEL, 18d SKIVE, 22a BEMBEX.  
Code 5: 21a CHALK, 28a OPSIDMATH, 6d VIHUELA, 19d ARMOUR, 20d SCARPS, 27d BEAN.

The winner, who receives book tokens worth £50, is Mr M.J. Thomas, of Cottingham, North Humberside. The runners-up, who win book tokens worth £20, are P.M. Crowther, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Alan Lye, of Edinburgh.



## No 469

- ACROSS
- Gorge oneself (7)
  - Supposed absence from scene of crime (5)
  - Pregnant (of animal) (4,5)
  - Word of assent (3)
  - Rotating device (5)
  - Hindu god, creator of universe (7)
  - Creator of scheme (7)
  - Vapours (5)
  - Drenched (3)
  - Fir to live in (9)
  - Egg-shaped (5)
  - Dismiss; lash with foot (4,3)
- DOWN
- Dog's bark: dog (child) (3-3)
  - Nimble (4)
  - Split-personality aspects (6,3,4)
  - Hit, astonished (6)
  - Object of derision (8,5)
  - Myth, uphill-stone-roller (8)
  - (Spanish) holiday, celebration (6)
  - An enforced demand (8)
  - (Am. Indian) conference (6)
  - Child (6)
  - (Spanish) snooze (6)
  - Resonant sound; pivoted spar (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 468

ACROSS: 6 Kleptomaniac 7 Caller 8 Inward 9 Kilo 10 Preacher 12 Handicap 16 Toot 18 Bottle 20 Isoile 21 Know the score

DOWN: 1 Feel-good 2 Stir up 3 Eruptive 4 Anew 5 Faerie 6 Khaki 11 Cotton on 13 Amount 14 Creche 15 Prissy 17 Undue 19 Town

CROSSWORD BOOKS: *The Times Crosswords* - Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each. Books 14 to 19 £4.50 each. *The Times Concise Crosswords* - Books 1 & 2 £3.99 each. Books 3 to 7 £4.50 each. *The Times Jumbo Crosswords* - Book 1 £5.99. *The Times Sunday Crosswords* - Book 1 £4.99. *The Sunday Times Crosswords* - Book 1 £4.99. *The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords* - Books 1 to 3 £4.99 each. Book 4 £3.99. *TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS* For IBM PC and Acorn Archimedes range. 24 titles £14.99 each. See SAE for details. Prices inc p&g (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Alton Ltd, 5 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery up to 8 days. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

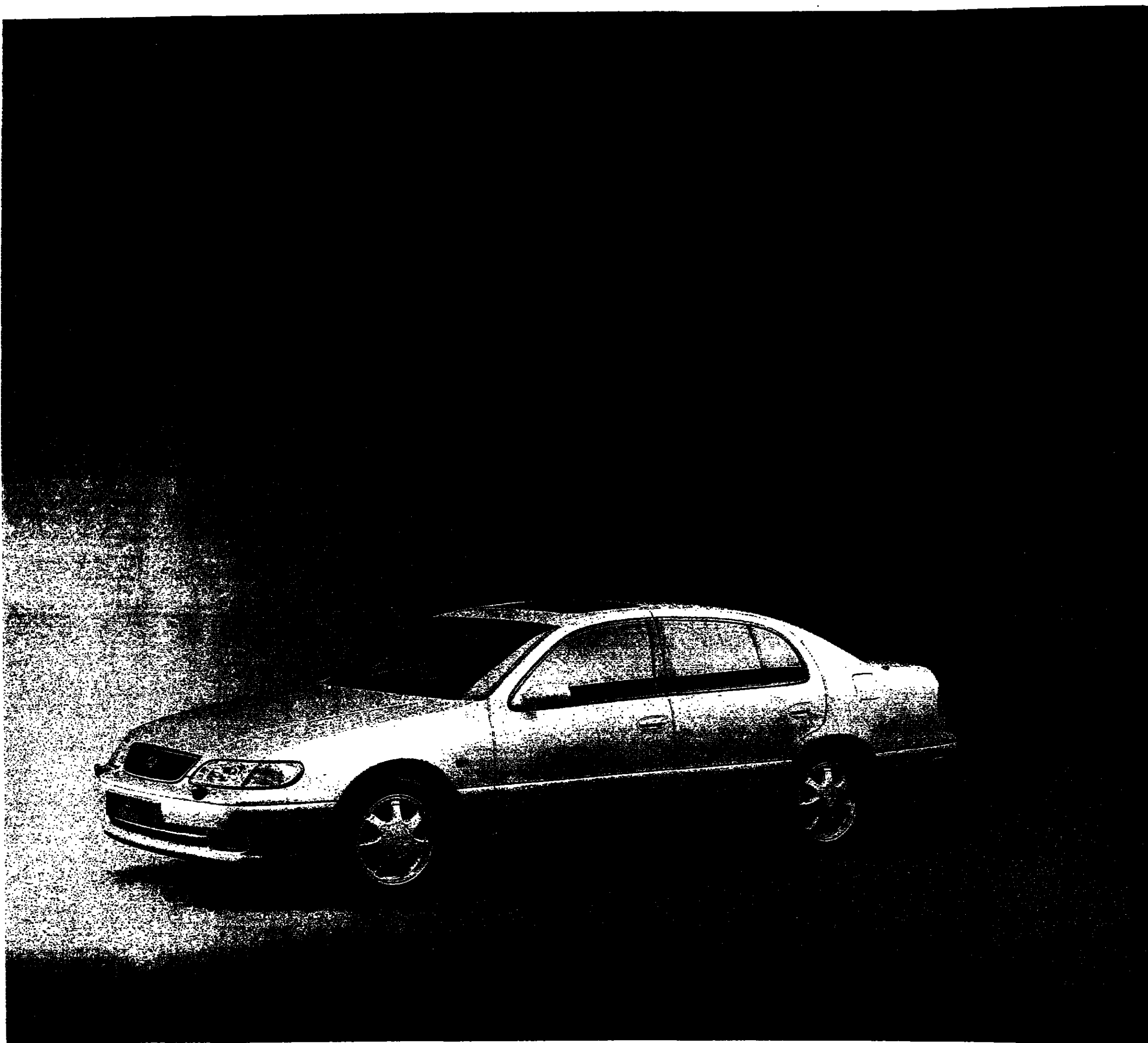


PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to *The Listener Crossword* 3305, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, May 25.



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